

# AUGUSTA HISTORICAL BULLETIN



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### IN MEMORIAM

A purpose of the Augusta County Historical Society is to publish *Augusta Historical Bulletin* to be sent without charge to all members. Single issues are available at \$3.00 per copy.

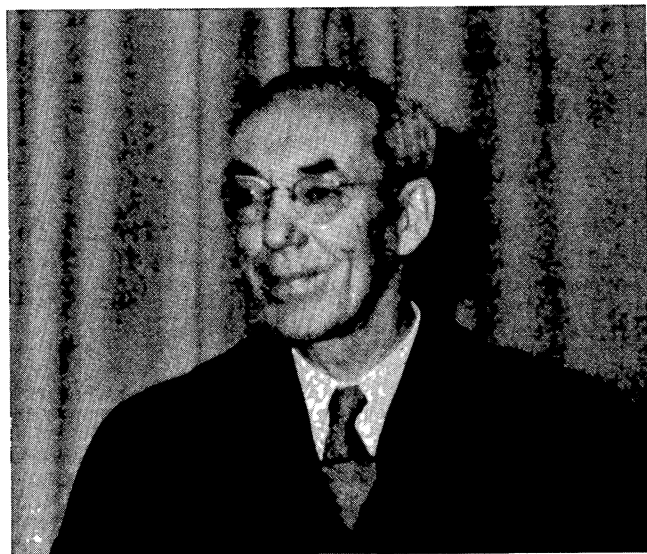
The membership of the society is composed of annual and life members who pay the following dues:

Annual (individual) .....	\$7.00
Annual (family) .....	\$10.00
Annual (sustaining) .....	\$25.00
Life Membership .....	\$125.00
Annual (Institutional) .....	\$10.00
Contributing—Any amount	

## IN MEMORY OF HERBERT SNIPES TURNER

Dr. Turner was scholar, pastor, presbyter, teacher and author. He worked with an open mind seeking the truth; he proclaimed the Gospel with devotion to Christ; he served his Church with remarkable goodwill toward all; he taught with authority and counseled with an understanding heart.

When we consider his contribution to the Historical Society and especially to the Bicentennial Project, let it be recorded that with unusual diligence he went beyond the call of duty. He contributed significantly to the quality of the book, *Great Valley Patriots*. The college students' nickname for him, used with affectionate good humor and genuine admiration, is not inappropriate. That name? "Saint Herbert."



Dr. Herbert S. Turner

Dr. Turner was born Nov. 18, 1891 in Mebane, N. C., son of Edgar C. and Jeanette Thompson Turner. He was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Davidson College in 1913 where he was an assistant in biology and laboratory instructor during his senior year.

Dr. Turner taught at McGuire University School in Richmond from 1913-1914 and entered Union Theological Seminary in 1914. While at seminary, he supplied the Berryville Presbyterian Church during the summers of 1916 and 1917. He received his BD degree in 1917, was elected the Hague Fellow there for 1917-18, and was licensed and ordained by Orange Presbytery in North Carolina in 1917.

Dr. Turner was supply pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Durham, N. C., in 1918 and became pastor of Bethel Presbyterian Church and Pines Chapel on Jan. 1, 1919. He was elected moderator of Lexington Presbytery in 1920 and moderator of the Synod of Virginia in 1933. He received his DD degree from Union Seminary in 1922.

In 1947, Dr. Turner resigned as pastor at Bethel Presbyterian Church in July to become a full-time professor at Mary Baldwin College where he had been teaching part-time since 1939. He received the Algernon Sidney Sullivan Award from the college on June 6, 1971.

After leaving Bethel, he supplied many churches, including Third Presbyterian, Old Providence ARP, Mt. Carmel Presbyterian, Craigsville Presbyterian, Tinkling Spring Presbyterian and Covenant Presbyterian churches.

He was author of "Bethel and Her Ministers," a history of Bethel Church; "Church in the Old Fields," about his native Mebane, and "The Dreamer, Archibald DeBow Murphey" which was published in 1971.

At the time of his death, Dr. Turner was professor emeritus of religion and philosophy at MBC.

In 1967, his friends and former students at MBC established the Turner Collection in the MBC library. Books in the collection, on history, theology and philosophy, bear nameplates in tribute to Dr. Turner.

# THE CONCLUSION OF THE BICENTENNIAL PROJECT

(given November 10th, 1976)

By Dr. James Sprunt

The book which we have here tonight, "Great Valley Patriots," the Bicentennial project of this Society, has been more than three and half years in the making. And when it appeared, in all of its attractiveness, several days ago I think that wherever you were you must have heard me singing the Hallelujah Chorus! The course of its voyage to reality has been neither a quick passage nor a smooth and easy sail. We've had our troubled waters and head winds. But we have arrived in safety, and for that the Lord be praised.

"Great Valley Patriots" (and do let's pronounce the title properly... it is not "*Great Valley Patriots*," but "*Great Valley Patriots*," with a very slight pause between "Valley" and "Patriots"). "Great Valley Patriots" is the dream child of Dr. Howard McKnight Wilson, and I wish he were able to tell you the whole story of its emergence into fact tonight. I shall not attempt it, nor will Mrs. Bushman. But we will seek to tell you briefly some of the facts of its coming into existence.

Some years ago Dr. Wilson had made exploratory efforts to enlist the Society in sponsoring a book to be descriptive of the life and work of William Preston who had been spoken of to him by the Virginia State Archivist as "the most neglected of our Virginia Revolutionary leaders." Those efforts had failed to kindle the necessary enthusiasm, and one day about four years ago he came around to see me and in our conference he proposed that we suggest to the Board of the Society the plan of adopting a Bicentennial project and that it might be a book descriptive of the struggles and the contribution of the Great Valley folk in the Revolution. We talked about it at length and generated enough steam to move me to present the idea to the next meeting of the Board on February 26, 1973. I did so, and it was well received, and the Board voted unanimously to endorse it to the Society. The then President, J. B. Yount, was asked to suggest a committee to head up the project. And, as often happens in such circumstances, I was asked to be its chairman, and with the help of Mrs. Bushman and Dr. Brice to name the other members.

The Society in its semi-annual meeting following, on May 9th, 1973, approved this recommendation of the Board, at the

same time offering a loan of \$2500 to use if needed. They also authorized a Project Committee with me as chairman, to be composed of nine members, three each from Augusta County, Staunton and Waynesboro; these in order being Mrs. H. D. Hevener, Gifford M. Mabie and Mrs. John M. Sproul from the County, Marshall M. Brice, Mrs. William Bushman and Richard M. Hamrick, Jr., from Staunton, and John M. McChesney, Jr., J. Ellison Loth, and Mrs. Thomas W. Mehler from Waynesboro. This Committee was charged with the formidable duty of "raising funds, soliciting assistance in research, and to see the project through to a successful conclusion." This we have labored to do, with many meetings, many problems to solve and difficulties to overcome, but the goal has at last been attained.

In regard to the raising of funds: We tried at first to obtain sufficient contributions from the members of the Society here and across the country to meet our needs. This was only partially successful... However we have received at the end of the run a total of \$22,324.61.

Here let me pause to express our unending gratitude to Harry E. Baylor, Jr., who graciously consented to be our Project Committee Treasurer, and who has all this time received and handled our funds with the utmost efficiency.

Let me now give you a summary of where our funds came from:

We did not use any of the Society's proffered loan of \$2,500.00. But toward the end of our effort, when we were really in need, the Society at its last meeting gave us \$2,500.00 which was gratefully accepted.

Ninety-nine members of our 350-member Society contributed a total of \$3,873.23. Eleven members granted us loans amounting to \$1,775.00. One non-member gave us \$10.00. Two local D.A.R. chapters gave us \$20.00. This makes a total from Society and friends of \$8,148.23.

We made many attempts to receive funds from corporations and foundations. Many were refused, but some few responded. We received from the Board of Supervisors of Augusta County \$1,500.00, from the Staunton Bicentennial Commission, \$1,500.00, and from the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration in Washington a grant of \$5,000.00. The total from such sources was \$8,000.00.

The successful pre-publication sale of the books, here and elsewhere, resulted in our receiving from the McClure Company,



our publishers, a check for \$6,146.38. This came in wonderfully well, as it enabled us to have more than enough to pay the balance of the publication cost due, according to our contract, upon the delivery of the finished book.

*The expenses of our Project* I will greatly summarize lest I bore you overmuch.

For research and authorship and sundry current expenses we spent \$10,664.51. For the actual publication of the book, the dust jacket, and certain minor items connected with the process, \$8,762.35. (This makes a total for disbursements of \$19,414.02.) We now have a balance of \$2,910.59.

But lest you think perhaps that we could throw a big celebration party with this balance, I hasten to inform you that we have loan obligations to repay and further expense bills to pay totalling approximately \$4,875.00. (\$1,775.00 in loans and \$3,100.00 in author expense.) This puts us in the hole actually with a red ink balance of \$1,965.00. But cheer up again, for we expect to pay off these obligations as the sales from the book are received.

To turn now, finally, to a possibly less confusing phase of the Project Committee's report . . .

We have had a diligent and dedicated working group of researchers and writers. (I hope Mrs. Bushman will speak of that.) Dr. and Mrs. Wilson have labored incessantly these three years and ten months, and Mrs. Bushman has added her expert ability as a researcher. Dr. Richard K. McMaster, of Bridgewater, has served in a time of crucial need as the writer of the last chapters. Mr. William H. B. Thomas provided earlier basic work. Drs. Herbert Turner and Marshall Brice were an immense help in critical review and editorial revision. Mrs. Otis L. Fisher provided the labor of indexing, and Miss Mary Kathryn Blackwell graciously did the volunteer work of typing the manuscript. And last but not least we are indeed grateful for the expert and patient service given to us by our publisher, the McClure Printing Company, Inc., through Mrs. Leland C. Brown. And I would certainly like to extend my own personal gratitude to the members of our Project Committee for their full cooperation in the task allotted us. And we all rejoice that we have a book which is a valuable and permanent contribution to our national Bicentennial and to the preservation of the noble story of our pioneer forefathers in the Great Valley in their victorious struggle for liberty.

By Mrs. William Bushman

When the Bicentennial project of this society was undertaken in 1973, none of us directly concerned with it realized the magnitude of the task that had been set. None of us realized the far-flung directions the research alone would lead us. None of us realized the vast amount of records and sources that had never been tapped in the area of western Virginia that dealt with the role played by that frontier in the struggle for "Liberty."

The search for material fanned out from Augusta County north, south, east and west. First hand study of sources in the north were explored by Dr. and Mrs. Wilson in a research trip to Saratoga and New England — both places where men of the Great Valley served. A southern trip to King's Mountain, Guilford Courthouse and Cowpens, as well as research in Atlanta, Georgia, revealed more records to Dr. Wilson. Two trips to southwest Virginia brought a great wealth of material for use. Sources were also found in the Library of Congress by Wm. H. B. Thomas, as well as vast resources of the Archives at the Virginia State Library and the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond. These were also explored by Dr. and Mrs. Wilson and myself. Sources were secured for use by inter-library loan through the wonderful cooperation of the Mary Baldwin Library and the U.S. Regional Archives at Philadelphia. Many Revolutionary pension records were secured from the U.S. Archives in Washington, D.C. We were also able to secure microfilm of county records of the period — particularly court order books — these were obtained not only from Richmond, but also from Charleston, West Virginia, Archives Department. The Bicentennial Commission at Point Pleasant was also most helpful in furnishing materials. The library of the University of West Virginia also was helpful in furnishing catalogs of their holdings which gave us help on what they had available on the period. Sources were also used here in Virginia at the Alderman Library in Charlottesville, Emory and Henry College in southwest Virginia.

From southwest Virginia the vast personal records and whole-hearted cooperation and first hand knowledge of the area by Gordon Arhonnime of Bristol gave an insight into the activities of that area in the Revolution, especially with regard to the Indians and their never-ending incursions against the frontier. The revelation of the extent of Tory activities on the frontier was amazing — most of us think of the Tory problem as being on

the other side of the mountains. The Tory problem and that of the conscientious objectors were also revealed as being in our own area of the Valley.

Our local sources here in Augusta County were very productive — use of court order books, the court of claims book, and the old newspapers of Staunton (which date back to 1836) produced facts we had no previous knowledge of — e.g. that the sight of a continental uniform worn by Judge Brooke when he came over the mountains from Amherst County, produced fear that he was British — the people who saw him had never seen an American uniform, since the militia wore buckskin. This was the first real proof that buckskin was the usual uniform.

All of these discoveries of material changed completely the original idea of publishing a book that would be comprised of vignettes on notable men of the Valley in the Revolution. Besides, nothing was being published by the Commission in Williamsburg on the western Virginians of the Great Valley in the Revolution. So far as we know, only 4 books are being produced on this area of Virginia — all by people of the Great Valley — two from the lower valley on the Germans and Peter Muhlenberg, and one from southwest Virginia on William Preston. Consequently, we feel that this book is a major contribution not only to the Bicentennial celebration, but one that adds to the unique history of western Virginia. We are pleased that no discrimination of any kind has been practiced in presenting the material — both sexes and all ethnic groups are included.

This has been an exciting project to be a part of — I am very proud to have had a small part in the research for material, but most of all to have been president of the society at such a time. To be at the end of the tunnel after working for 3½ years is most exciting. We would not be celebrating the completion of this project tonight were it not for the unflagging help of many people. Many thanks go to the members of the project committee. Heading the work of the committee was Dr. James Sprunt, whose work began during the presidency of J. B. Yount III. The hours spent on various aspects of the project by Dr. Sprunt cannot be accurately tallied. The members of the committee are to be commended for their cooperation and help. When my term as president began in 1974, Dr. Sprunt told me he would be willing to step aside as chairman. I asked him and the committee to continue since they knew the project. It was not wise to change horses in the middle of the stream. Their performance has been magnificent.

Credit also goes to all those members who volunteered to address envelopes for the distribution of the flyers advertising the book. These were mailed out in July 1976. In that month over 4,000 flyers were mailed up and down the Valley, to all parts of Virginia, as well as all over the United States. They were distributed directly by The Shenandoah Valley travel bureau in New Market, the Staunton Chamber of Commerce, the Woodrow Wilson Birthplace, The Western Virginia Bicentennial center, the Staunton-Augusta County Tourist center, the clerks offices in both Staunton and Augusta County, and through the McClure Press. All told 6,000 were distributed.

Our appreciation goes to Mrs. Burwell Hawpe, Miss Mary Evelyn McChesney, Miss Dorothy Eisenberg, Mrs. W. E. Bowman, Mrs. A. C. Hankla, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Wenner, Mrs. H. I. Todd, Mr. Richard Lewis, Mrs. Dan Pemberton, Mrs. H. S. Hulvey, Mrs. John K. Patterson, Mrs. John Ott, Mrs. S. Tate Sterrett, Mrs. W. W. Sproul, Mrs. John M. Sproul, Mrs. Waller Callison, Mrs. Ernest W. Hutton, Mrs. Charles L. Zakaib, Mrs. J. Edwin Garrett, Mrs. Thomas Mehler, Mrs. N. H. Gowing, Mrs. Claude P. Smith, Mrs. Robert M. Armistead for addressing thousands of envelopes. The flyers produced a pre-publication sale of more than 500 books. This is better than 20%. Normally, 10% is counted on in pre-publication sales, so you can see that the lists of names sent flyers were meaningful. I am indeed indebted to many people up and down the Valley for their assistance in sending names and addresses of people who would be interested in our publication.

Credit for the success of the message in the flyer goes to the author: Mrs. Waller Lescure. Even though she is an extremely busy person, she took the time to read the manuscript in its entirety before she composed the flyer. We appreciate it very much.

Unbounded appreciation goes to the McClure Press and Mrs. Leland Brown. The Press has published our book at no profit. We are grateful, also to Westinghouse Electric Corporation for allowing us to use the xerox machine for copies of manuscript.

Appreciation also goes to the members of the society who made gifts and loans of money to the project — and to the society for its continuing support of it.

As you can see from what has been said, there can be no accounting of the time put in on the completion of the book, as well as the thousands of miles travelled to find material. It is

also evident that it would not be complete without the direct help of many people — all members of the Augusta County Historical Society. All that I've said is inadequate as an expression of my feelings on the completion of this project — a great undertaking finished through our own efforts and one in which we can always take great pride.

## RECORDS DIVULGE SCHOOL'S HISTORY

R. E. Moody who was faculty adviser for The Kablegram for many years, and a teacher of mathematics there for over 50 years, recently located this material in the S.M.A. Library and has brought it to the attention of Mary Baldwin, purchaser of the S.M.A. property. Since the military academy is no more—and has meant a great deal to Staunton and Augusta County—(if not the country itself), I thought this history (written by a cadet whose name we don't know) might have historical interest for The Bulletin.

### History of S.M.A. Proves a Rapid Rise Since Founding

March 3, 1923

Sixty-three years ago this year, sometime in the early part of the month of September 1860, in the town of Charlestown, Virginia a school known as the Charlestown Male Academy was founded. Its founder was Captain William Hartman Kable, a graduate of the University of Virginia. He was a gentleman distinguished for his scholarly attainments, though in time of war he showed his fighting ability by winning the rank of Captain in the 10th Virginia Cavalry, Southern Army, during the Civil War. He had loved boys all of his life and the natural outcome of this love was the founding of this school. From this time on he devoted the remainder of his life to teaching and training the youth of America to become good and serviceable citizens.

After the Civil War that part of the state of Virginia where the town of Charlestown was situated (Jefferson county) became a part of the new state, West Virginia. Captain Kable stood the new state of affairs as long as he was able but finally his

longing for the South became too strong and in the year 1883 the school was moved to Staunton to the site which it now occupies. It was not in the city then, but was situated some little distance out of town. Due to the change of location the name was altered to that of Staunton Male Academy.

The school was not military while it was situated at Charlestown nor was it military after moved to Staunton until the year 1886. In this year the military system was adopted and coincident with the change the name was once again altered and the school became known as the Staunton Military Academy.

## HILL TOPICS

STAUNTON MILITARY ACADEMY, MAY 7, 1917



When Captain Kable, the founder of the institution, first moved his school to Staunton he bought the site it then occupied from a Mr. Alby, a prominent business man of the decade following the Civil War. The grounds then used were bounded by the alley in the rear of the present South Barracks; by Prospect street, the street between the school and the hospital, (later the Jr. School Bldg.) by the driveway leading from

Prospect street to the North Barracks, and by a fence which extended from the corner of the present North Barracks nearest Echols Field, to Pleasant street, the street coming up to the hill from North Coalter. From here the line was another fence which extended diagonally in front of The President's home, to the end of the alley behind the South Barracks. From this it can be seen that the Hill where the flagpole now stands was not included in the original grounds of the school. This was added sometime later due to the fact that it belonged to a family estate and was not then for sale. Neither was the site of the present North Barracks included, nor Captain Bringham's residence, nor the hospital. All of these were added later at various dates up to 1910.

The hospital property was owned by a Commodore Skinner of the Confederate Navy. Upon his death it was willed to a maiden sister of his, with the provision that at her death it would go to the University of Virginia. This sister died in 1912 and the University sold the property to the school. The front part of the hospital building is the old residence of the Skinner family and is the oldest building on the hill, being about one hundred years of age. The rest of the hospital is new, having been added by the school since the acquisition of the property in 1912.

In its early years at Staunton the founder of the school lived in the building now occupied by the offices of the President and Headmaster. The boys lived upstairs in this building over the home of Captain Kable. Others lived in a frame building which stood on the site now occupied by the Southeast corner of the South Barracks. In addition to these two buildings there was another which contained classrooms and a study hall.

Soon after its removal to the city of Staunton the school began to become more and more famous. Captain Kable was eminently successful in his chosen profession of education. The boys prepared by him were almost unfailingly successful in their college and university careers. It was due to this that the institution soon grew from a smaller local affair to a national and world known and accepted educational centre.

Due to the gradual growth of the school it was incorporated in the year 1893. The original charter was written by Judge J. L. S. Kirby who also handled all legal matters that came to this corporation. Judge Kirby is the old gentleman who takes his meals in the mess hall now every day. He was a cadet at the United States Military Academy at West Point when the Civil

War broke out. Due to the fact that he was a Southerner he left that institution along with one hundred and ten others, among whom was Robert E. Lee, and hurried South to fight for the cause of the Confederates. He was a brother-in-law of Captain Kable and after the war, when the school was incorporated, he was put in charge of its legal business. There is no person on the hill who has the cadets and the institution more at heart than does Judge Kirby.

All through this period of its history, the school was known to the townspeople as the Kable school, and its cadets were known as the Kable boys. This was so universal that hardly ever was any other name applied to the institution for a long period of years. This is one reason why some of the present cadets, while on leave in town, may hear themselves spoken of as Kable boys. Among the graduates of this period are a few names which may be familiar to some of the present cadets, such as: Colonel H. H. Wayt, R. E. R. Nelson, S. D. Timberlake, and L. W. H. Peyton (all of Staunton).

(This article will be concluded in the next issue of The Kablegram.)

(This is the continuation of the History of S. M. A., the first half of which was published last issue.)

March 17, 1923

In 1900, due to the fact that he was getting along in years, Captain William H. Kable turned the administration of the school over to his son, Colonel William G. Kable. (Due to the live-wire industry and ability of Colonel W. G. Kable the school jumped ahead, making rapid strides forward.) Its new president was a firm believer in advertising and used this medium extensively to bring the attention of the public to the school. As a result the number of applicants for admission to the school steadily grew year by year.

In the year 1904, there visited the school a disaster which was really a blessing in disguise. This was the fire which destroyed the entire establishment save for the Founder's home. Both barracks were burned to the ground, total losses. The fire broke out at two o'clock in the morning. Colonel T. H. Russell, who had just come to the institution as a teacher the year before, had a room in a sort of a wing leading off from the building itself. He awoke, disturbed by the heat, and on looking up saw the flames eating their way through his ceiling. On going to his door

to get out he found the hallway a mass of flames. His window was thirty or forty feet from the ground, a dangerous jump. As he was deliberating what he was going to do, a cadet dashed into his room, having come through the passageway, flames and all. With the knowledge that the floor was still sound they forced their way back the same way, not without losing their hair and Colonel Russell his moustache, through the fire.

Then with several assistants they went through the rooms of the Barracks. Knowing there was no time to lose by talking they took the occupants of each room and dumped them out of bed upon the floor. Thus awakened they would soon hear the cries of fire raised by the bystanders and lose no time in getting to safety. In the morning just as the sun was rising reveille was held on the hill where the flagpole now stands. Every man answered to his name and the authorities had the relief of knowing that the school had passed through such a fire as that without the loss of a single life.

Of course with the entire establishment burned down the corps had to be furloughed from the twenty-fourth of November until the tenth of next January. During this time a frame structure was put up on the site of the present South Barracks. In this building school was held from January 10, 1905, until June 15th of the same year.

Construction of the present South Barracks was begun on March 1, 1905, and this building was completed on October 1st. Only 214 days being consumed in the work. This was remarkably great speed, and in order to accomplish the task over one hundred workmen were kept busy day and night, working at night with the aid of large lights.

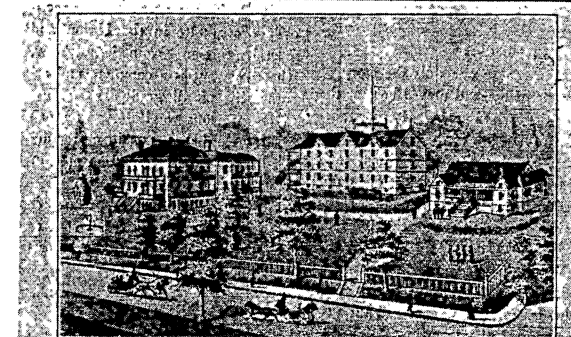
The temporary structure which had been erected the previous winter was moved by means of rollers to the place where the North Barracks now stands. At that spot it served as a heating and laundry plant until the year 1918, when the North Barracks was erected on that spot, necessitating that the old building be torn down to make the room required for the new one.

When the school was first brought to Staunton, Captain Kable had erected as a wing to his house a dining hall with a few cadet rooms above it. This building stood where the present Mess Hall now stands and was known as "The Wing." It is from this term that the present name of "The Wing" over the present Mess Hall descended.

This wing was connected with the President's house by a low doorway, which was so low that a tall man had to stoop a little to go through it. Just after he first came here the present President had to go through this door to make his first Taps inspection. He did not know that it was necessary to stoop and as a result the jamb of the door caught him squarely on the top of the head. It is to this that he lays his baldness today, as the door caught him on top of the head and took off what few hairs he had left.

## HILL TOPICS

STAUNTON MILITARY ACADEMY, APRIL 12, 1917



SKETCH OF THE ACADEMY

When it was desired to build the new Mess Hall in the year 1913 the old "Wing" was taken down, carried across the asphalt, and re-erected practically the same as it had been before. This building is now known as the East Barracks. This old building was used as a hospital for three years after it had been rebuilt on the spot where it now stands.

Captain Kable lived until the year of 1912 — long enough to see the school which he had founded become one of the most powerful institutions of its kind in the country. His son Colonel William G. Kable survived him until 1917 when, due to illness, he met an untimely death.

On his death the Presidency of the Institution was placed in the hands of Colonel Thomas Halbert Russell whose hand is still steering it on its course.

In 1917 the institution was officially appointed as a Junior Unit of the Reserve Officers Training Corps and two regular army First Sergeants were ordered to duty here. In 1918 the large and modern North Barracks was built and also the present laundry which is one of the best in this part of the state. This added to the capacity of the school a number nearly double that which had at that time, and from then on to date the school's roster has reached or exceeded the six hundred mark every year.

This year, with a large staff of teachers, most of whom are specialists in their various lines, the school is "carrying on" that glorious work which was begun sixty-three years ago by a learned man who loved boys and gave his life to educating and preparing them for a successful journey through life.

#### 100 Years of Baseball

## **STAUNTON'S CLAIM TO FAME BACKED BY NEWSPAPER FILES**

Reprint From Staunton, Va., Leader, Tuesday, March 1, 1966

By RICHARD M. HAMRICK, JR.

As sports pages begin to fill with stories of 1966 baseball spring training, it might be well to note this spring marks the centennial of baseball for Staunton and the Valley of Virginia.

It can further be claimed that Staunton started baseball in Virginia, according to early newspapers.

Twenty-seven years after Abner Doubleday laid out the field and established rules for the game at Cooperstown, N. Y., in 1839, baseball appeared in Staunton.

No doubt the Civil War helped spread the game, as young men traveled over the country more than would normally be the case.

\* \* \*

Thus appeared, in 1866, the earliest reference to baseball in the files of the Vindicator, the Valley Virginian and the Spectator. The Valley Virginian of March 7, 1866, announced organization of the Staunton Baseball Club "last week" and that "bats and balls would be received this week."

A week later, officers of the club were announced, A. M. Garber, Jr., president (editor of the Valley Virginian); H. F. Richards, vice president (wholesale and retail liquor); C. C. Wheat, secretary (grocer); John McMahon, treasurer (later clothing business), with G. P. Scherer, J. B. Scherer, Jr., and John Beard as directors (all confectioners and saloon keepers).

\* \* \*

The first game was played a week earlier at Stuarts Meadow (about where Smith Fuel is now). The Valley Virginian further stated, "With the interest shown, baseball is predicted to become a Staunton institution." Regular practices were to be held every Saturday evening. A notice in the same issue called a meeting "at their rooms" for Friday evening. Several villages were thinking of forming clubs according to the issue of March 21.

The Valley Virginian of Aug. 15, 1866 — whose editor, A. M. Garber, Jr., would seem to be more of a "sporting gentleman" than Richard Mauzy of the Spectator or W. H. H. Lynn of the Vindicator — bragged:

"Baseball — Staunton started baseball in Virginia and H. F. Richards of Baltimore, now of Staunton, started it in Staunton. He may properly be called the father of the game in this state. Since it started here, Harrisonburg, Charlottesville, Richmond and other towns have organized clubs. Lexington will have one next, or — maybe Keezletown."

Announcement was made in the May 16 issue of organization of the Lee Club, the junior baseball club of Staunton, with B. Skip Taylor as president. They claimed to have beaten the Staunton Excelsiors badly in a game the previous week.

\* \* \*

On June 1, according to the Vindicator of June 8, the Excelsiors accepted a challenge and journeyed to Charlottesville to try their skill against the Monticello team of that city. They returned home the losers. The Spectator of June 5 sums the story up briefly, the score, Monticello 42, Excelsiors 5.

A return challenge was sent to Charlottesville for a match to be played at Institution Meadow (VSDB) "between now (Vindicator, Friday, June 22) and the 27th inst." The Valley Virginian reported on June 27 that the Monticellos refused the game because of illness. This same issue records the last game of the Lee team for next Friday (June 30) with the "ladies respectfully invited to attend." The Excelsior first and second teams also were to play on the same day at 4:30 p.m.

\* \* \*



On July 25, announcement was made in the Valley Virginian that the young men of Harrisonburg had formed a baseball club. It went on to say "that place will imitate the City of Staunton in spite of us and we can't blame them. It shows they are progressive and waking up. Where are you Lexington?"

\* \* \*

The Vindicator for Aug. 29 has a long story about the game between the Excelsiors and the Lone Star team of Harrisonburg, the game being played on Aug. 8 at Harrisonburg. There seems to have been some disagreement between the Lone Stars and the umpire for the article argues that a complete game is either five or nine innings and, as the Lone Stars quit in the sixth after scoring two runs the Excelsior not having had a chance at bat, the score reverted to the end of the fifth inning. This seems to be an early case of "we would have won if" between the two cities. The batting order and box score is given:

#### EXCELSIORS

	H.L.	R.
Fagan, ss .....	1	4
Richard, p .....	2	3
Lilley, rf .....	3	1
Snapp, 2b .....	3	1
Kinney, lf .....	1	3
Taylor, 3b .....	2	2
McChesney, 1b .....	1	3
Wood, cf .....	1	2
Wheat, c .....	1	3
	—	—
	15	22

#### LONE STARS

	H.L.	R.
Hopkin, c .....	0	5
Giuheen, p .....	2	3
Coffman, ss .....	3	1
Harry, 1b .....	3	2
Eichelberger, 2b .....	1	3
McQuaide, 3b .....	0	1
Ganibow, rf .....	1	3
Houlik, cf .....	3	1
Reemer, lf .....	2	1
	—	—
	15	20

	1	2	3	4	5
Excelsiors .....	1	1	5	9	6
Lone Star .....	4	11	0	3	2

Umpire, Mr. Zell — Ivanhoe Club — Baltimore

Game time, 2 hours

Repercussions were heard on this article. The Harrisonburg Commonwealth Weekly reported the Lone Star Baseball Club would not visit Staunton until the Excelsiors settle the differences in score as it stood on the field at Harrisonburg with the Lone Star Club "two points" ahead in the sixth inning over the Excelsiors. The umpire pronounced the score in the Vindicator a mistake.

A club was organized at New Market under the name of the Lee Club in October. It played the Lone Star Club on Nov. 10 winning by seven "rounds." A second game was played on Nov. 24 with the Lee Club winning in seven innings.

November also saw baseball clubs organized in Lexington with the Beechenbrook Club at Washington College and the Cadet club at VMI. These teams played the week of Dec. 10 with the Cadet team winning.

The Valley Virginian also reported a game between the baseball club of Harpers Ferry and the Hagerstown Scientifics in November, and said in December that "baseball is still the rage in the lower valley."

In this day and age of heated, roofed stadiums, when games are called for rain and cold, we can but marvel at the baseball men of 1866, who played winter and summer. They must have loved the game.

## A Review of a Mid-Nineteenth Century Newspaper: The Staunton Spectator 1844-1851

By Pam Hollings  
Mary Baldwin College, '76

The current trend in architectural history and preservation is through historical research with the intention of restoring houses to correctly represent their times. Previous methods of architectural preservation tended to "fix up," repair, and prettify

a building — whether or not that particular time period might have used lavender paint for the trim or butterfly paper for the walls. The purpose of a museum house is much too important and crucial to condone such practices. Hundreds, thousands of people flock from museum house to museum house to formulate an impression of American life during different periods. To not perform this task is, in my opinion, to mislead the public. With this idea in mind, you may understand that I found myself involved in research for the Woodrow Wilson Birthplace Foundation.

The Woodrow Wilson Birthplace represents not only a certain time period and area of the country, but also the first home of one of our Presidents. Because the house was the parsonage for the Presbyterian Church, the church records would certainly have been a source of information about the Wilson family and the construction of the house itself. The plats and records in the courthouse would also have been a source of deeds and dimensions of the parsonage lot. Both of these research projects, however, had already been investigated at an earlier time. Yet, how could one discover and obtain an understanding of the culture, the people, and the life of Staunton in the mid-nineteenth century? I was provided with a ready answer to this question — *The Staunton Spectator*.

Originating in 1836, *The Staunton Spectator* was a weekly newspaper which provides us now with information about the town at different times. As I became involved in my research using the newspapers, however, I became less absorbed in the information I was accumulating and more fascinated with the newspaper itself. How different it is from the typical modern newspaper, and what a fountain of lively facts! I discovered that I could learn not only about Staunton and its inhabitants in the mid-nineteenth century, but also about the entire period in America as well. Perhaps a more appropriate word than "learn" would be "understand," because through *The Staunton Spectator*, with its historical sketches; poetry; ads; anecdotes; medical advice; editorials; etc., I have gained an insight into a period which would not have been possible had I read a multitude of text books. Therefore, I would like to share with you some of these insights by describing what one might find in an issue of this newspaper between the years 1844 and 1851.

For the sake of organization, examining the newspaper according to its general format would be the most profitable ap-

proach. When examining a seven year span of a newspaper, one would expect this format to change over the years. I was surprised to notice, however, how little it did change. The types of articles and style of writing remained basically constant, as opposed to such things as the headline type (naming the newspaper), which changed for a brief four month span in the beginning of 1850. This change was to a more bold and modern type which, at first, I thought indicated a movement towards modern times. I was forced, however, to drop this conclusion when the type returned to its "Old English" or "Roman" style in April of 1850. Simultaneously occurring with this sudden change in headline type, was the use of smaller paper. Upon reading the consecutive issue, I discovered an interesting explanation by the editors for these changes:

It is with pleasure we present to our readers *The Staunton Spectator* in an enlarged form and a new dress. Under the disadvantages hitherto of a small sheet and heavy advertising, we have been yet gratified at the increase of our subscription list, now larger than at any other period in our hands. The advancing business of the country demanding more space for advertisements, and the literary tastes of our community a greater amount of reading matter, the alternative was obvious, of a still further resort to small type, or an enlargement of the paper. Justice to the liberality and forbearance of generous patrons, would not permit hesitation in choosing the latter, which we hope will be found to add to their gratification and interest no less than our own. Mutual benefits constitute the great bond of human society, and this is well, for mutual dependence marks every link of the social chain . . . (*The Staunton Spectator*, April 24, 1850.)

Another change within the newspaper was its more frequent use of printed cartoon drawings; although these were all limited to advertisements. There were no illustrations of editorials; political and entertainment cartoons were nonexistent, as well.

The newspaper furthered its organization by placing advertisements in general categories according to their subjects, for example: medicine, doctors, lawyers, real estate, and general goods. Dividing articles into specific columns according to subject matter facilitated the organization within the news section, as well. Such organization can be illustrated in the development of an agricultural column in November, 1849, which could also indicate the importance of agriculture in this area.

Similar to the policy of most modern newspapers, *The Staunton Spectator* gave emphasis to important and popular news items according to their pertinence at different times. During each political campaign, the majority of newspace was dedicated



to the description of speeches, policies, and conventions with apparent zeal. As time continued, the question of slavery became increasingly popular with descriptions of conflict and rivalry between the North and South. The development of the slavery issue was very subtle in these early years, before the Civil War, but could provide one with a very interesting subject to pursue in a separate paper.

Through this discussion of some of the changes in *The Staunton Spectator*, one can observe the difficulties of examining a "typical issue." Claiming there were no developments within this seven year span of the newspaper would not be valid, for, if nothing else, the news itself changed. Furthermore, in disregarding any changes, one might present too broad an impression of *The Spectator*. I, therefore have tried to "strike a happy medium" and include those developments and discrepancies which would illustrate a progression of time, but omit those that would only have caused confusion. This inclusion was basically to give *The Spectator* credit for its advances during these years, as well as to express the development of history that was made obvious to me from reading consecutive years of this newspaper. Regardless of these changes, a certain style did pervade through *The Staunton Spectator* from 1844 to 1851, and it is this style and format with which I will deal.

An edition of *The Staunton Spectator* consisted of four pages during the entire seven years. Usually half of these four pages was confined to advertisements, which are a valuable resource for discovering the culture of a town and its populace. The advertisements were placed on the third and fourth pages, and on part of the first page until their restriction in April of 1850. The remainder of the newspaper (the first two pages) contained news, literary items, anecdotes, announcements, and historical and scientific facts. Because the newspaper was generally organized according to page, I will attempt to discuss it under page divisions, with the exception of advertising. Because of its large scope, this section will be dealt with individually. I begin now with the first page.

#### PAGE ONE

The first impression I obtained of the front page of *The Staunton Spectator* was its lack of a major news headlines. Only rarely, with the report of an Inaugural Address or governor's

speech, was the front page even concerned with news; and even in reporting these news items, there was no use of large print headlines.

The paper was consistently organized into vertical columns into which literature, news, and advertisements were placed. Such a format is very different from the newspapers today which favor a more box-like treatment of each news item. This rigid pattern in *The Staunton Spectator* was broken rarely; one instance being a large pictorial advertisement for the circus in 1851.

The first page always began with a poem. These poems varied in subject matter, sometimes dealing with specific things (the death of a statesman or President), or (more often) general subjects of romance and sentiment. Poems of this type included: "The Death of a Child," "The Love of a Mother," "Morning Meditations," and other religious and romantic poems.

Following the poem, was a quite varied literary section called "Miscellany." Here one might read a totally fictional tale or an historically factual one. On February 6, 1850, "The Miscellany" contained a story somewhat questionable as far as fact. It was called "The Flower Girl of St. Helena." This poignant tale told of Napoleon's stay on the Island of St. Helena following his political failures. Here he met an English girl who earned her livelihood selling flowers. Intrigued by the girl, he often returned to visit her, and they soon became friends. Eventually his visits slackened due to ill health, but Henrietta visited him, bringing flowers and spring water from near her house. Finally the day came when Napoleon was on his death bed. Henrietta was able, through great persuasion, to enter his room where she sadly witnessed his death. Upon this event, she "fell on her knees by the bedside; then making an effort she seized and tried to press the hand of Napoleon to her lips, but immediately her eyes fixed, and she sank on the floor, buried in that sleep which knows no waking. Henrietta was dead!" The factuality of this story is unimportant when compared to the entertainment it affords the reader. An interesting idea on which to speculate is the important emphasis of the newspaper on entertainment at this time. Today, unlike the nineteenth century, we have the television, radio, and movies. Stories such as "The Flower Girl of St. Helena" provided the reader with a little historical information as well as a diversion from everyday life.

Some of the stories in "The Miscellany" emphasized "the moral," which seemed quite a popular concern of literary items

during this time. One such story, "Bread upon the Waters" by T. S. Arthur, appeared in the paper on September 6, 1848. This story told of the rewards reaped by an elderly man who had lost his fortunes to the point of bankruptcy. He was at a last resort when a stranger offered to pay all of his debts, explaining that the old man had helped him carry a heavy load when he was a poor boy. The tale ends with a didactic and moral statement: "a kind act is never lost, even though done to a child."

"The Miscellany," however, did not restrict itself only to fiction. In the January thirtieth issue of 1850, there is an account of Russia and Siberia entitled "Russia and the Exiles of Siberia." The report discusses Russia and its government and then gives a very interesting and enlightening account of criminals sent to Siberia for their punishment. A criminal committing a major offense was sent to work in the mines, but, for others, a lesser degree of punishment was administered: . . .

. . . those for minor delinquencies are settled in villages or on farms; and political offenders, comprising soldiers, authors, and statesmen, are generally established by themselves in little knots, communicating to all around them a degree of civilization and refinement . . . When not bad enough for the mines, each exile is provided with a lot of ground, a house, a horse, two cows, and agricultural implements, and also for the first year with provisions. For three years, he pays no taxes whatever — and for the next ten, only half the full amount. To bring fear as well as hope to operate in his favor, he clearly understands that his very first slip will send him from his home and his friends to toil as an outcast in the mines . . . (*The Staunton Spectator*, January 30, 1850.)

The frequency of historical essays indicates a cultural and educational concern in Staunton. Emphasis, especially in this section of the paper, seemed to be placed on either literature, history, anecdotes, or newsy information. Usually the main essay, of which I have described three examples, was followed by a series of short and varied items. I can only describe these items by comparing them to the "fill-in" trivia facts modern newspapers employ to plug empty spaces; and even those do not do these smaller essays the justice they deserve. But let me allow you to decide for yourself by presenting some examples of these trivia reports:

Interesting Facts.—A legal stone is 14 pounds in England, and 16 in Holland. A fathom, 6 feet, is derived from the height of a full grown man. A hand, in horse measure, is four inches. An Irish Mile is 2240 yards; a Scottish Mile is 1984; a German is 1809; a Turkish

1826. The human body consists of 240 bones, 9 kinds of articulation or jointings, 100 cartilages or ligaments, 100 muscles or tendons, and 100 nerves, besides blood, arteries, veins, &c. Potatoe plants below three feet do not vegetate; at one foot they grow thickest, two feet they are retarded two or three months. There are no solid rocks on the Arctic regions, owing to the severe frosts. The surface of the sea is estimated at 150,000,000 square miles, taking the whole surface of the globe at 190,000,000 square miles. Its greatest depth is supposed to be equal to the height of the highest mountain, or five miles. (*The Staunton Spectator*, January 30, 1850.)

A Rat Story. — The Rev. Walter Colton, in his new book, "Deck and Port", tells a singular anecdote of the sagacity and fidelity of a rat. The incident happened when he was attached to the Constellation Frigate. He says: "We were fitting for sea at Norfolk, and taking in water and provisions; a plank was resting on the rail of one of the ports which communicated with the wharf. On a bright moonlit evening, we discovered two rats on the plank coming onto the ship. The foremost was leading the other by a straw, one end of which each held in his mouth. We managed to capture them both, and found, to our surprise, the one led by the other was stone blind. His faithful friend was trying to get him on board, where he would have comfortable quarters during a three years' cruise. We felt no disposition to kill either, and landed them on the wharf." (*The Staunton Spectator*, April 24, 1850.)

Why the Quakers wear their Hats. — Quakers invariably wear their hats in places of public worship, or in public assemblies. We often see, in our assemblies and Senate chambers, slouched hats, hanging carelessly over solemn faces, and but few are aware how this custom originated.

Fox, the founder of collarless coats and broad hats, was in the habit of attending the Episcopal Church. When the preacher uttered sentiments of which he disapproved, he would solemnly put on his broad-brimmed hat, and take it off again whenever a more welcome train of doctrine occurred. — If he sat long with his hat on, and the ill-sounding propositions or fulminations continued, he would rise slowly and silently walk out. Thus, it appears, that it was for the purpose of habitual protest that the Quakers first learned to sit with their hats on. (*The Staunton Spectator*, August 20, 1851.)

It may appear that these human interest items have occupied a large amount of space within this paper, however, I feel that they, almost alone can convey the charming character of *The Staunton Spectator* during this time. These articles present information on agriculture, medicine, the cuisine, etiquette, science, industry, literature, cultures, history, etc. I was struck by their resemblance to the "Fun Facts" found at the bottom of the cartoon section of some contemporary Sunday newspapers. Never-

theless, they do indicate an interest in learning on the part of the Staunton reading public, as well as providing a source of entertainment for them. Education appeared to be important to these people. What a varied and amusing education these small articles provided!

Interspersed among these trivia were other smaller items which I have classified as anecdotes. One might object that the aforementioned articles are, in fact, anecdotes. For the purpose of clarity, however, I have limited the definition of an anecdote to a shorter, usually humorous, moralistic, or educational news item. While trivia would consist of those items which are longer and of less moral significance. Many of the anecdotes are as entertaining as the trivia items and are helpful in revealing a concern for education, morals, and literary fun. Here, then, are a few of these entertaining anecdotes:

A fire-proof calico is now made for children by immersion in phosphate of magnesia. It will ignite by contact of flame, but the fire will not spread. It goes out immediately. (*The Staunton Spectator*, February 13, 1850.)

True Prayer. — A little deaf and dumb girl was once asked by a lady who wrote the question on the slate, "What is prayer?" The little girl took her pencil and wrote in reply, "Prayer is the wish of the heart." And so it is — All fine words and beautiful verses said to God do not make real prayer without the wish of the heart. (*The Staunton Spectator*, April 23, 1851.)

It is estimated that upwards of 30,000 children have, within the past fifty years, been christened George Washington. (*The Staunton Spectator*, April 24, 1850.)

A man the other day swallowed half a dozen glasses, and in less than ten minutes after he became a tumbler. (*The Staunton Spectator*, March 13, 1850.)

Why are ladies bustles like Walter Scott's novels? Because they are fictitious tales founded upon realities. (*The Staunton Spectator*, March 5, 1846.)

In reading these anecdotes, a religious concern for a moral life can easily be perceived in combination with an enjoyment of wit and humor. One can also detect a great disparity between this nineteenth century newspaper, with its literary emphasis, and the modern newspapers to which we are exposed. The newspaper's emphasis of the literary is illustrated in the amount of space it is allotted (approximately a page and a half), as well as its placement of the front page.

The literary section also consisted of a variety of types: poetry, essays, narratives, anecdotes, and trivia; all dealing with a variety of subjects. Thus, one could conclude that the emphasis of *The Staunton Spectator* during these years, was more on literature as opposed to news.

Of course news was discussed, but not in the typically cold, factual style evident today. It was recorded in more literary terms with rhetorical eloquence and flourish when befitting, or sad melancholy when the news item was woeful. Whatever the news, the reader could guess *The Spectator's* stance and was sure, nevertheless, to be entertained. This fact was realized by the editors themselves, and is illustrated in an excerpt from their editorial on April 24, 1850:

...As the conductors of a public journal, we fully realize our position as responsible, and one emphatically for good or for evil. The guarantee to the public *for* the one and *against* the other (a claim we freely admit) can only be found, antecedently to experience, in the character and qualification of the undertakers. From the FIRST, we shall never shrink — to the LATTER, we modestly submit...

We are not neutral in politics either by profession or practice, but incline rather to the opinion, that parties and party organization tend to purity and consistency in Church and State, provided truth be the end and honest convictions the guide to its attainment...

With this background in mind, let us now proceed to a more detailed discussion of the news section which occupied a better half of the second page.

## PAGE TWO

Generally, news reporting requires a more straightforward and specific orientation than that of a narrative tale. Fewer examples (in contrast to the literary section) will therefore be necessary to illustrate its style or subject matter. When compared to the less eloquent style of modern reporting, however, the news of *The Staunton Spectator* in the nineteenth century does appear a little less than forthright. Its manner of reporting is a dramatic and rhetorical style of prose popular in literature at this time. Using such a style for reporting news seems almost incongruous to us today, but I found it refreshingly different and entertaining.

The greater, though not exclusive, emphasis of *The Staunton Spectator* on local affairs, rather than national or global events,

also brings *The Spectator* into contrast with most contemporary papers. The fact that it was published on a weekly, rather than daily basis, may account for the sparsity of factual reports dealing with events beyond the borders of Virginia or the United States. A second possible consideration could be that, given the relative small size of Staunton and the limited communication techniques of the time, *The Spectator* did not have the ability (and perhaps desire) to relate news in the same manner as a large city would have in the nineteenth century, or the way we would expect it to be related today. The relative lack of interest in international affairs that cultures exhibited at this is also important to recognize, especially when compared to our modern multi-national interconnectedness. I do not mean to give an impression that no national news was reported; I would only like to convey the idea that *The Spectator* was limited in its overall coverage. Indeed, this limitation in coverage was obvious only in the earlier years; it tended to fade in the more recent years (1850-1851). In those years, the news appeared in a greater quantity and in a more factual, specific style. Nevertheless, many members of the Staunton community probably supplemented their subscriptions to *The Spectator* with another newspaper exhibiting a greater emphasis on the news. In fact a reader, in his letter to the editor, discusses these issues nicely:

... I like your first page. Would it be amiss to let the world know who that chap is that writes so much good poetry for your paper? You give our girls a chapter of a story now and then — the dear creatures, you know, like a little of the imaginative — but your stories are not like May apples, sickening sweet — nor, like the circus jests, sickening dirty. Some make me laugh, which is good for dyspepsia, and some make me cry a spell, which is good for the heart. I don't think I ever saw a pointless anecdote or a dirty, vulgar one, in your paper.

... That column of news-items is just the idea. Do make it longer if you can. People who take but one paper, like to have the NEWS. You, that have a table full of papers every day, don't know how greedy a man gets for NEWS. The chaps, hereabouts, relish that prodigiously. — I'll tell you a secret — this world belongs to the children. — Now keep your paper interesting to the young folks and you will hold on to the old ones ... (Correspondence of *The Staunton Spectator*, April 24, 1850.)

One of the most popular news items for *The Spectator* during these years appears to be politics which were dealt with in a charmingly patriotic style. During each political campaign, the newspaper was full of description dealing with conventions and speeches by the candidates; often described with no mincing of words on the part of *The Spectator*:

Carrying out the Principle! It will be seen that the Commissioners appointed by Gov. Smith to superintend the Presidential Election in this County, have, in their appointment of Commissioners to superintend the election at the different Precincts, carried out the Governor's principle of *two* Democrats to *one* Whig!

We have no objections to make personally to the men appointed. — We believe them to be honest. — But how is it with the Commissioners? Why is it that *they* have looked so NARROWLY to the "Stripe?" If no advantage is expected to accrue from it to their party — it is certainly to say the least of it, exercising their power rather invidiously, in a Country so decidedly Whig." (*The Staunton Spectator*, October 18, 1848.)

Nevertheless, there were items relating only factual news which, when read, brought, history alive before my eyes. Articles about gold in California, emphasized the rush westward for riches:

Movement for California. — General Persifier F. Smith, who has justly earned the title of the Hero of Contrera, and who has been appointed Governor of California, is at present in New York, and will soon take his departure for that land of gold mines. The gallant Captain Tobin will accompany General Smith to his new home. (*The Staunton Spectator*, November 8, 1848.)

Gold Dusting. — The chronotype tells a story of a man who returned home from California with gold to the amount of sixty-four thousand dollars, which he deposited in one of the mints. He took off his old tattered unmentionables, and was about to throw them away, but his wife, a good prudent woman, took them, and with a trifling effort, she shook twenty-three thousand dollars' worth of gold dust out of them. (*The Staunton Spectator*, February 28, 1849.)

The gold in California will have a great effect upon matrimony. It is understood that the generality of young ladies now decline to engage themselves, preferring to wait a year or two, when the crowd returns from the "diggins," at which time each one expects to catch a fifty thousand dollarer. (*The Staunton Spectator*, August 22, 1849.)

The growth of sentiments in regard to the slavery issue also became apparent as the number of articles dealing with this conflict increased over the years. This development reestablished for me the desires of the people for resolutions to the slavery problems. Without these resolutions, bitterness grew between the North and South until nothing but war could resolve the conflict in their eyes:

Great Meeting in Charleston. — In pursuance of a call signed by over 1,000 citizens of Charleston, South Carolina, a great meeting was held in that place on Tuesday night the twenty-ninth ult., of those opposed to separate state secession but in favor of co-

operation for resistance to Northern aggression. . . They declare that the time has come when the Union should be dissolved, but as the cause of South Carolina is identical with that of the other Slaveholding States, she should not at present secede from the Union without the cooperation of her "aggrieved confederates. . . (*The Staunton Spectator*, August 6, 1851.)

A Battle with Runaway Slaves! — By an arrival at New Orleans we have advice from Galveston to the 18th inst.

The Victorian Advocate of the 17th inst. says that Captain McCulloch and his Rangers lately encountered a gang of runaway negroes in the neighborhood of Nereces while making their way towards Mexico. They were immediately challenged to surrender, but instead of complying with the demand, they opened fire on McCulloch's men, killing two and wounding one of them. A general engagement thus ensued, by which all the negroes were killed. The negroes are supposed to have run away from plantations on the Brazos, and have given much trouble to the counties of DeWitt and Victoria. (*The Staunton Spectator*, May 7, 1851.)

7 Fugitive Slaves, says the New Hampshire Statesman, passed through Concord on Tuesday from Canada. (It adds that this a common occurrence.) (*The Staunton Spectator*, May 7, 1851.)

Reading such news items as these provided me with a concept of history never before so totally apparent in my understanding. Learning the facts of historical events is necessary in obtaining a knowledge of a period. But, how much more significant their reality becomes when the events are related to individuals in their everyday lives:

Other more general and common items with which *The Spectator* dealt were particularly concerned with Virginia politics and the actions of the Virginia Assembly in its meetings. This sort of news would certainly be most interesting for a knowledgeable student of American history. Such a student would have the capabilities to know the background of these less historically significant events and, I am sure, would appreciate them more than I was able to with my limited background in the area. The general style and approach to these news items was the same as the approach to the other larger issues discussed in more detail in this report. They could easily have been as good examples as the Slavery Conflict and the Gold Rush for explicating news reporting in *The Staunton Spectator*; but for the sake of striking a more widespread interest, I chose to deal specifically with the better known items. The only things perhaps to again emphasize, before ending this discussion of news in *The Staunton Spectator*,

would be the major impressions I gained from reading the news. Firstly, I developed a greater sense of the reality of history along with a better understanding of these years in America. I was also intrigued by the broad scope of *The Staunton Spectator* towards news especially when this approach is compared to the much more factual one employed by newspapers today.

The second page of *The Staunton Spectator* was not totally restricted to news, however. This page also contained letters to the editors; a list of correspondences that had arrived at the post office; and announcements of general affairs, marriages, and deaths. Often these sections spilled over onto the third page in random order, though usually the marriages and obituaries were the last items before the advertisements commenced. With the exception of the general announcements, these sections do not lend themselves easily to discussion. This difficulty arises from their lack of narrative subject matter with which one could deal. In the general announcements, however, one can find interesting as well as extremely useful information for understanding the culture and society of the day.

Announcements of "Ladies' Suppers" and "Fairs" were most common. These reports described the preparations and events in vivid detail:

Female Enterprise ought never to go Unrewarded. — The Ladies of Waynesborough and vicinity will furnish a Dinner at that place on the Fourth, and solicit the patronage of Gentlemen and Ladies . . . they design some improvements on the church. — If compatible with his engagements, an Address will be delivered by the Rev. B. M. Smith. (*The Staunton Spectator*, July 2, 1846.)

The Ladies of the Presbyterian Sewing Society of Staunton will hold a fair for the sale of useful and fancy articles at the market house on the first day of June Court next. Usual refreshments, nothing wanting. (*The Staunton Spectator*, May 23, 1849.)

In reading such articles, one can gain insight into what occasions, were popular to celebrate, as well as how the people actually celebrated them. Such announcements were endless.

Especially useful to contractors for their building proposals was another type of announcement. These articles often provided the names of the architects, the basic plans of the buildings, the payment schedules, and the approximate construction dates:

To Builders. — The Congregation of Tinkling Springs, propose to build a new church of brick about 45x65 feet finished in a neat plain manner. Payment for building will be one-third cash when

the work is begun, one-third when finished, and one-third twelve months later. Several parts let to one or several contractors according to the offered terms.

The plans and specifications will be laid out for those who wish to see them in Staunton by Captain John F. Smith.

(Signed) Robert L. Dabney.

(*The Staunton Spectator*, April 31, 1849.)

To Contractors. — Will receive sealed proposals until 10:00 Friday, March 31 for the erection of two more buildings at the Western Asylum at Staunton . . . plans and specifications . . . can be seen on application to Thomas R. Blackburn, architect residing at asylum. . .

(Signed)

Rob't S. Brooke  
Levi L. Stevenson  
Nicholas C. Kinney  
exec. committee

(*The Staunton Spectator*, January 26, 1848.)

The significance of such business petitions for architectural research is obvious.

The descriptions of the news and other more locally significant items completes the discussion of all sections of the newspaper excluding the advertisement. Though many of the announcements and locally pertinent articles often extended onto the third page, I included them in the section dealing with page two of the newspaper. This inclusion was basically for facility as well as clarity, in that the remainder of the newspaper was solely concerned with the advertisement field and should be dealt with under one category. I turn my focus, then, to this area:

## ADVERTISEMENTS

During the years 1844-1851, the scope of advertisements in *The Staunton Spectator* was quite large. One can more clearly comprehend this range if the advertisements are divided into categories according to their subject matter. Such categories would include dry goods, books, groceries, clothing, tailors, cabinet making, furniture, hardware, building supplies, metal, medicine, doctors, lawyers, and estate and property sales.

Through the interpretation of advertisements, an architectural historian is able to gain an insight into such things as the popular colors of paint, the common types of hardware, and the common building supplies used during a particular time period. Other readers can ascertain the books, the style of clothes,

the types of food, etc. that were popular. All of these interpretations are based generally on the frequency with which certain products were advertised. To discuss the interpretation of advertisements for historical insight would be impossible in a paper of this size. I must, therefore, control myself and simply include here descriptions and illustration of advertisements during this time.

One of the most popular areas for advertising during these years in *The Staunton Spectator* appears to have been medicine. There were countless ads purporting to: "purify the blood," "restore the hair on bald heads," "cure rheumatism," "whiten teeth," etc. Often ads claimed to do all! Such quackery and lack of medical knowledge, such as advertisements for leeches and bleeding, emphasized the tremendous advancements medical science has made in the relatively short time since then.

Many ads were also concerned with furniture. Some of the furniture dealers offered ready-made furnishings; while others specified "made-to-order" goods. A Mr. Slonecker advertised such things as mahogany sideboards, tables, chairs, sofas, bureaus, and secretaries; all "neat, durable, and fashionable . . . equal to the best city work. . ." (*The Staunton Spectator*, June 6, 1844.) While a Mr. Chandler offered "20 dozen chairs from the factory of Jones and Howard, such as cane and wood seat. . ." and even listed his prices: "Mahogany sideboards \$25 to 30; — best marble tops \$5; ladies bureaus with large glasses \$25 to 30; — best marble tops \$40; china presses \$15 to 20; best mahogany chairs \$50 to 60; sofas \$40 to 50, fine rocking chairs \$8, 10, 15; bedsteads \$3, \$5, \$7. . ." (*The Staunton Spectator*, June 6, 1844.)

Property sales occupied a constantly impressive amount of space in the advertisement sections — usually about three columns or one-half of a page. For the most part, the property sales, which often included the furnishings as well, were handled by auctions held in front of the post office. The sales in the surrounding area of Staunton usually included outhouses, sheds, barns, and even livestock!

One could continue to discuss advertising for pages, especially if an interpretive approach is adopted. The spectrum of the advertisements provided an insight into a variety of areas which were as effective as the news and literary sections in helping me to understand the history. Basically the advertisements were short and without illustration. They usually announced the arrival of goods. Because they were cheaper over an extended period of



time, they also usually ran for more than one week. The front page of *The Spectator* each week contained the terms of advertising:

. . . ADVERTISEMENTS of thirteen lines (or less,) inserted three times for one dollar, and twenty-five cents for each subsequent continuance. Larger advertisements in the same proportion. A liberal discount made to advertising by the year.

Those terms of course structured the advertising quite a bit.

The advertising provided almost as much entertainment for me as the remainder of the paper. It differs from advertising today because of its smaller size and more prose-oriented style. The types of products, especially within medicine, were very entertaining, and displayed evidence of false advertising even in the past!

The advertisement section completed the issue of *The Staunton Spectator*.

In this paper, I have tried to demonstrate what a member of the Staunton community might have found as he leafed through *The Spectator* during the mid-nineteenth century. A difficulty arose in trying to communicate a "typical issue" over a span of years, and to interpret and explain the articles so that you, the reader, might experience the feeling of reading actual history, seeing it come alive before your eyes. The diversity between my time and the nineteenth century made me feel almost an intruder, snooping into the affairs and a time so apparently alien to my own. To convey this feeling, I tried to draw parallels and comparisons between modern newspapers and *The Staunton Spectator*. This task was not easy because of the great variations between the two. Literature and simple humor seemed to have been manifestations of a time so different from our own. The newspaper was not an encyclopedia for *news* facts, but for informational facts and wit. What a well-rounded enlightenment must have been produced by reading these newspapers every week!

Perhaps the task I have undertaken in conveying the concept of two totally different times and the progression of history seen in these newspapers has been too vast. Perhaps these conceptions can only be attained by reading the newspapers yourself. Perhaps not. Nevertheless, I achieved a better understanding of time through my researching experience, and perhaps in my future perusal of modern newspapers, I will be able to anticipate some of the impressions our papers will convey to an historian of the Twenty-first Century.

## Minutes of the commission appointed to settle claims to unpatented lands on the Western waters of Virginia, January-April, 1780

### Part I

Copied by Katherine G. Bushman

In May, 1779, the General Assembly of Virginia passed an act for adjusting and settling titles of claimers to unpatented land on the western waters of Virginia. These lands were in Augusta, Botetourt, Greenbrier, Kentucky, Monongalia and Ohio (now West Virginia), Yohogania (extinct), Washington and Montgomery counties. The following records are found in the original Minute Book II of the commission appointed for Augusta, Botetourt and Greenbrier. It is a privately owned record which has descended through the years in the same family. There is no copy of these minutes on file in the Virginia State Library. The Library does have 3 volumes containing 1) the schedule of certificates issued by the commissions from 1780-1782; 2) a list of land claimed by the settlers in the named districts; 3) a volume of land office records of certificates issued in Washington and Montgomery counties. Further reference to the act establishing the commission is found in *Hening's Statutes*.

Since it is a Minute Book of proceedings of the commission, many abbreviations are used — as listed below. This transcription contains the spelling of words and names as written by the clerk of the commission.

Abbreviations used in writing the minutes of the court are

Asse—assignee  
GB—Greenbrier  
Adj—adjoining  
OC—Ordered certified  
Sett—settlement  
Intd—intitled  
Disd—dismissed  
Wits—witnesses  
Dept—deposition  
Atts—attendance  
accd—according  
Impt—improvement  
BC—Botetourt County  
Remr—remainder  
Pltff—plaintiff

Memd—memorandum  
Did—didemus  
condl—conditional  
AC—Augusta County  
Clk—clerk  
DS—deputy sheriff

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At a Court of Commissioners Cont'd and held for the District of Augusta, Botetourt & Greenbrier at the Great Savanna on Friday the 21st Day of January 1780.

Present

Sam'l McDowell

James McCorkle & Wm McKee Gent

Jacob Mann Junr is intitl'd to 100 acres of Land by Sett before 1778 as asse of John Boughman. lying in GB County adj the land of James Bradshaw & John Maze & OC

James Doolin is intitl'd to 100 acres of Land by Sett before 1778. Lying in GB County In Cooks Run where he now lives & OC

Nathan Gillilan is intitl'd to 300 acres of Land by Sett before 1778. Part of a survey of 400 acres Made for him in 1774. In GB County adj the land of Wm Poage and Chs Clindenen & OC

John Henderson is intd to 200 acres of land by sett before 1778 as asse of Mathew Cree(d)? Lying in GBCounty, on the S Side of GB River below the mouth of Woolf Creek & OC

Hugh Bradshaw is Intd to 100 acres of Land by Sett before 1778 including a survey of 37 acres of Made for him in 1774 in GBCounty adj the land of Geo. Parsons & OC

James Brindley is intd to 400 acres of Land by Sett before 1778 including a survey Made for him in 1774 in GB County adj the land of Geo Poage & OC

Lazaras Barkley is intd to 400 acres Land by Sett before 1778 including a survey made for him in 1774. Lying in GB County adj the land of Jas Brindley & OC

Thomas Buck is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 including a survey made for him in 1774. Lying in GBCounty adj the land of Thos Hannon & OC

Charles Buck is intd to the Preemption of 100 acres of Land Lying in GB County on the No. side of GB River above the land of Joshua Buckley & OC

John Day is intd to 400 acres of Land by sett before the year 1778 including 2 surveys made in 1774, one for Jno Day & the other for Jno

McNeel in GB County adj the land of James Brindley, Ro. Walker & OC

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John McNeill is intd to 400 acres of land by right of sett before 1778 as asse of W. Hughes, Lying in Green b County adj the land of Chas Kinnison & OC

Thomas David is intd to 90 acres of land by sett before 1778. a survey made for him in 1774, adj the land of Chas Kinnison & OC

Daniel David is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778. In GBCounty on the E branch Locust Creek & OC

James Edmondson is intd to 250 acres of land by sett before 1778, a survey made for him in 1774, in Greenbrier County adj the lands of Chas Clindinen & OC

James Edmondson is intd to 250 acres of land by right of sett before 1778 as asse of Saml Gillilan in GB County adj his sett & OC

Andrew Smith is intd to 87 acres of Land by sett before 1778 a survey made for him in 1774 in GB County adj the Land of William Poage & OC

Joshua Ewing is intd to 400 acres of land by sett made before 1778 a survey includes part of 2 made for him in 1774 in GB County adj the land on which he now lives Also the preemption of 100 acres to include the same sd surveys and vacant land below his sett.

Joshua Ewing is intd to 250 acres of land by sett right before the year 1778 as asse of James Ewing Lying in GBCounty adj the land of Col John Dickinson & OC

Joshua Tharp is intitl'd to the Preemption of one Hundred acres of Land lying in GB County adj the land of Andw Smith & OC

Joseph Day is intitl'd to 250 acres of land by sett before 1778 Lying in Greenbrier County adj the land of Chas Kinnison & Natl Day & OC

Charles Kinnison is intd to 250 acres of land by sett before 1778. A survey made for him in 1774. Lying in GB County adj the land of Thos David & Wm Hughs & OC

Charles Kinnison is intd to 300 acres of land by right of sett before 1778 as asse of Isaac Maiden. Lying in Gb County adj the land of John McNeill & OC

Nathaniel Day Jr is intitl'd to 300 acres of Land by sett before 1778. to include 200 acres of a survey made for Natl Day Senr in 1774 in Gb County adj the land of Joseph Day & OC



Robert Walker is intd to 400 acres of land by right of settlement before 1778. as asse of Nathaniel Day Sen. to include 200 acres a survey made for sd Day in 1774 in Gb where Walker now lives & OC

Hugh McKeever is intitled to Preemption of 150 acres of land in Greenbrier County adj sd land of John Bridger & OC

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Thomas McNeill is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 as asse of Thomas Hannon including a survey made for Jno Bridgers lying in GB County adj the land of Thomas Buck & Wm Ewing & OC

Thomas McNeill is intd to 180 acres of land by sett before 1778. a survey made for him in 1774 in Gb County adj the land of Wm Ewing where he now lives & OC

Thomas McNeill is intd to 180 acres of land by Sett before 1778, a survey made for him in 1774, in GB County adj the land of William Ewing where he now lives & OC

Saml Daleney is intd to 200 acres of land by sett before 1778. Including a survey of 50 acres made for him in 1774, in GB County adj the land of Jno Poage and Danl Taylor & OC

George Poage Esq. is intitled to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778. in GB County adj the land of Jno Day. & OC

George Poage Esq. is intd to 400 acres of land by right of sett. before 1778. as asse of James McGinnis. including a survey made for James McGinnis in 1774—in Gb County adj the land of Jno Casebolt and Jno Poage & OC.

Daniel Taylor is intd to 200 acres of land by sett. before 1778. including a survey made for John Swindler in 1774. in Gb County adj the land of Jno Poage & Alexr Waddle & OC.

John Johntson is intd to 100 acres of land by sett. before 1778 Lying in Gb County adj the land of Geo Poage & Jno Day & OC.

Edward Kinnison is intd to 400 acres of Land by sett. before 1778, a survey made for him in 1774, in Gb County adj the land of Wm Poage & Lazaras Barclay & OC.

Jacob Ireson is intitled to 400 acres of land by sett, before 1778, in Gb County adj the land of Alexr Waddle & Tho McNeill & OC.

John Casebolt is intitled to 150 acres of land by sett before 1778, Lying in Gb County adj the land of Geo Poage & Jas Brindley & OC.

William Poage is intitled to 400 acres of land by right of sett before 1778 as asse of John Buck (Burk?), lying in Gb County adj the land of Jas Edmondson & Jo Coulton & OC.

William Poage is intd to 200 acres of land by right of sett before 1778 as asse of John Ewing to include 100 acres part of a survey made for Nathan Gilliland in 1774, in Gb County adj to the land of Nathan Gilliland and Edward Kinnison & OC.

William Poage is intitled to 400 acres of land by right of sett before 1778, as asse of John Davis, including a survey made for Jno Davis in 1774, in Gb County adj the land of Nathan Gilliland and Geo Clindinen & OC.

John Davis is intitled to the preemption of 150 acres of Land in Gb County on both sides of Gb River below Oldhams & OC.

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John Poage Esq. is intitled to 400 acres of land by right of Sett before 1778 as asse of Joseph Davis (?) Lying in Augusta County adj the land of Jo Dock on Thorn Creek and OC.

John Bridger is intitled to 300 acres of Land by sett. before 1778. Lying in Gb County adj the Land of Hugh McKeever & OC.

Joshua Buckley is intitled to 400 acres of land by sett. before 1778 including a survey made for him in 1774. Lying in Gb County adj the Land of Charles Buck and O. C.

Alexr Waddle is intitled to 300 acres of land by sett before 1778 in Gb County adj the land of Jacob Ireson & Danl Taylor & OC.

James Huggart is Intd to 400 acres of Land by Sett before 1774 (8?). Including a survey made for him in 1774 in Gb County on a Branch of Sinking Creek where he formerly lived & OC.

William Huggart is intd to 400 acres of Land by sett before 1778 Including a survey made for him in 1774 in Gb County adj the land of Genl Lewis on Sinking Creek adj J. H. & OC.

James Stephenson is intitled to 300 acres of land by sett before 1778 including a survey made for him in 1774 in Gb County on both sides of Gb River at the Mouth of Stompin Creek & OC.

John Jeffries is intd to 300 acre sof Land by Sett before 1778 in Gb County adj the land of Jno Hall and Wm Blanton & OC.

Bursides vs Henderson—Pltff claims by right of sett for John Kinkade the land on which the Deft lives on. Deft claims his own sett at a tract of land calld the Long bottom on Indian Creeak  
This day came the parties whereupon Witnesses being Examd & the parties heard its the Judgment of the Court that the Deft John Henderson is intitled to the land in Dispute 400 acre Including a survey made for him in 1774 in Greenbrier County adj the land of Alexr Clark & OC.

David James is intd to 200 acres of Land by settlement before 1778 lying in Gb County on the end of the Droop Mountn & OC.

John Gilkeson Jr is intitled to 125 acres of land by sett before 1778 a a Survey made for him in 1774—in Gb County adj the land of James Milliken & Wm Elliot & OC.

John Gilkison Jr is intd to 100 acres of land by right of Settlement before 1778 including a survey made for Thos Ventrees (Ventrus), as asse of said Ventrees lying in Gb County adj the land of Wm Blair & OC

Hamilton vs Carson order to take the deposition of James Johnston

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William Gilkison is intitled to the preemption of 100 acres of land in Gb County on Spring Creek about 4 miles above Robt Clendinens & OC

Jacob Davis is intitled to 300 acres of land by sett before 1778 including a survey made for him in 1774 in Gb County adj the land of Aron Davis & OC

Aron Davis is intitled to 100 acres of land by sett before 1778—a survey made for him in 1774 in Gb County adj the land of Jacob Davis & OC

Michael Mannon is intitled to 400 acres of land including a survey made for Wm Cooper in 1774 which he claims as assignee of Uriah Cottle by right of sett before 1778 in Gb County adj the land of Ch Lewis's heirs & OC

Poag vs Gillilan Disd Pltf Costs

Poag vs Stephenson disd Pltf Costs

Poage vs Johnston Disd Pltff Costs

Thomas Gully is intd to 250 acres of land by sett before 1778 To include about 40 acres of a survey made for Isaac Burns in 1774 in Gb County adj the land of Wm West & OC

William Blain is intd to 200 acres of Land by sett before 1778, as asse of Jno Ventrees incd a survey made for said Ventrees in 1774 in Gb County adj the land of Archd Smithers & OC

The heirs of James Turpin decd who was heir at law to Solomon Turpin senr who was assignee of Samuel West are intitled to 300 acres of land by right of sett before the year 1778 In Greenbrier County adj the land of Saml Black & OC

Ordered that the Court be adjourned till Tomorrow 9 oClock  
Saml McDowell

At a Court of Commissioners continued and held for the District of Augusta, Botetourt and Greenbrier on Saturday the 22nd of January 1780—

Present

Samuel McDowell  
James McCorkle & William McKee, Gent

Hamilton vs Carson, Pltf Claims a tract of land calld Beaver lick by assignment from David Galloway. Deft claims by his own sett since the year 1778. Whereupon Witnesses being Examined & the parties heard Its the Judgment of the Court that Pltf Andrew Hamilton is intitled to the Preemption of the sd land 415 acres as asse of Jas Ward who is asse of David Galloway

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being a survey made for said Hamilton in the year 1775 in Greenbrier County & OC

James Lockhart and Anthony Bowen claims their att as wits 1 day each at the suit of Hamilton vs Carson

Thomas Griffith is intitled to 150 acres of land by sett before 1778 Lying in Greenbrier County on Gb River below the Mouth of Muddy Creek where he now lives & OC

Joseph Wheeler is intd to 400 acres of land by Sett before 1778 in Gb County adj the land of John Archer & OC

Samuel Williams in intitled to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 in Gb County including two small surveys made for Saml Wms & Phill Hammond adj Ro Knox & OC

James Fleming is intitled to 300 acres of land by sett before 1778 in Gb County as asse of Ign Howard decd (?) lying in Gb County on the South side of Turkey Creek & OC

Alexander Waddle as assignee of William Hutchison is intitled the Preemption of 100 acres of land in Augusta County on Brown Creek adj the land in dispute between Poage and Sharpe & OC

James Gillilan is intitled to 200 acres of land by right of settlement before 1778 as asse of James Brown who is asse of Jno Cunningham Lying in Gb County adj the land of Capt John Lewis and OC

Robert Armstrong is intitled to 200 acres of land by right of settlement before 1778 as asse of John Lindsey Including a survey of 50 acres made for Harry Davis in 1774 lying in Gb County adj the survey made under the grants & OC

Ordered that Court be adjourned till Monday 9 oClock  
Saml McDowell

Present                      Saml McDowell  
James McCorkle              William McKee              Gent

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James Richards in intitled to 400 acres of land by right of settlement before the first January 1778. Lying in Gb County adj the survey of the Great Savana & including the Piney Savana & OC

John Lewis Esq. is intitled to 400 acres of land by right of settlement before 1778 as assignee of James Flinn Lying in Gb County on big Cleark above Walkers Meadows where sd Flinn formerly livd & OC

George Mullakan is intd to 400 acres of land sett before 1778 Including a survey made for Thomas Cooper in 1774 in Gb County adj the land of James Burnsidess & OC

Joseph Campbell is intd to 200 acres of land by sett before 1778 in Gb  
County adj Ja (?) Lawrence & OC

At a Court of Commn continued & held for the District of Augusta  
Botetourt & Greenbrier at the Great Savanna on Tuesday 25 January  
1780

James Handley heir at law to Michael Handley Deceased who was  
 asse of James Davis, is intituled to 200 acres of land by sett before 1778  
 in Greenbrier County on Gb River at the Mouth of Woolf Creek adj  
 the lands of Genl Lewis & Laskers Heirs, which is OC

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William West is intd to 300 acres of land by sett before 1778 to include  
part of a survey made for Isaac Burns Lying in Greenbrier County adj  
the land of Thos Gully & OC

Timothy Warrin is intitled to 200 acres of land by sett before 1778 in Gb County adj the land of Turpins Heirs & OC

Daniel OHarra Jr is intitled to 160 acres of land by sett before 1778 a survey made for him in 1774 in Gb County adj the land of Daniel Oharra Sr & OC

Test James Lyle Jr Clk Saml McDowell

At a Court of Commissioners Continued & held for the District of  
Augusta Botetourt and Greenbrier at the House of Capt James Barnet  
the 14th Day of February 1780  
Present

William Curry is intitled to 200 acres of land by sett before the first Day of Jany 1778 Lying in Botetourt County on Sinking Creek adj' the land of John Web & Richd McFarson & OC

Danl McFarson 400 acres same as asse of Thos Middleton who is asse of John Paterson Lying in Botetourt County on Sinking Creek adj the land of Wm Curry and Wm McAfee & OC

Jacob Francisco 300 acres same lying in B County on Sinking Creek  
adj the land of Thos Middleton & OC by settlement

John Hale Jr 200 acres as asse of Joseph Hale same lying in B. C. on  
Laurel Creek by sett where he now lives & OC

John Weathers 400 acres same lying in B. C. on Sinking Creek between the lands of Wm Curry & Geo Paterson incld a survey made for Jesse Tedford since 1773 & OC

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John Weathers as asse of William Curry jr is intd to 300 acres of land by right of sett before 1778 including a survey made for sd Wm Curry since 1773 in B C on Sinking Creek adj the land of Saml Adams & OC

John Weathers as asse of Wm Arnet is intd to 250 acres of land same including a survey made for David Adams since 1773 in B C on Sinking Creek adj the lands of Saml Adams Senr & John Smallwood & OC

John Webb is intd to 400 acres of land same including a survey made for Robert McAfee since 1773 in B. C. Adj the land of Jno Middleton & OC

Charles Simmons same 300 acres incd a survey made for him since 1773 in B. C. on Beaver Creek adj the land of Hezekia Sumner & OC

John Hale, jr same 200 acres same lying in B County on Little River a Branch of New river & OC

Major Evans is intd to the premtion of 100 acres of land in B C on Beaver Creek where he now lives & OC

John Breckney as asse of John Jackson is intitlled to 200 acres of land by sett bef. 1778 including a survey made for sd Jackson since 1773 in B. C. on Sink. Creek adj the land of James Curry & OC

Uziah Harber as asse of Martin Brenam is intd to the Preemption of 150 acres of land in BC on the South fork of Little River & OC

Walter Middleton as asse of Wm McAffe is intd to 400 acres of land by right of sett before 1778 including a survey made for sd McAffee since 1773 in BC on Sink. Creek adj the land of David McFarson & OC

James Woods as heir at law to his father Arthur Woods decd is intd to 400 acres of land by right of sett before 1778 in BC on Sinking Creek & OC

Thomas Middleton as asse of James Hinds is intd to the Preemption of 300 acres of land in B. C. on Sinking Creek adj the land of Jacob Francisco to include a cabbin built by sd Hinds & OC

John Smallwood is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 including two small surveys made for John McCown & John Burton & OC in Bot County

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Ordered that Court be adjourned till Tommorrow 9 oClock  
Saml McDowell

At a Court of Commissioners Continued & held for the District of Augusta Botetourt & Greenbrier at the house of Capt James Barnet Tuesday 15th day of February 1780  
Present

Saml McDowell  
James McCorkle & Wm McKee Gent

James Wiers is intitlled to 200 acres of land by right of settlement before the first of Jan 1778 as asse of David Frame Lying in B C on Sink Creek adj the land of John Weathers & Saml Adams Jr & OC

John Spurlock is intd to 400 acres of land by right of settlement before 1778 as asse of Jonah Taisy who is asse of Jeremia Daniel lying in B Co on the west fork of little River also the Preemption of 200 acres adjoining the said settlement & OC

William Spurlock is intitlled to 200 acres of land by sett before 1778 in BC on Jno Rentfrows mill Creek adj the land of the sd Rentfrow & OC

William Sagrav is intd to 250 acres of land by sett before 1778 in BC on pine run a branch of 1 River adj the land of Hercules Ogle & OC

George Crozby is intd to 100 acres of land by sett before 1778 in BC on little River adj the land of Joseph Hale & OC

Daniel Allen is intd to 250 acres of land by sett before 1778 in BC on Mill creek adj the land of Wm Spurlock & Benj. Howell & OC

William Allen is intd to 150 acres of land by sett before 1778 in BC on the west fork of little River adj the land of James Terman & OC

James Harbison 400 acres by sett before 1778 including a survey made for him since 1773 in BC on Sinking Creek adj the land of Wm Thomson & Geo Smith & OC

George Smith is intd to 130 acres of land by sett before 1778 a survey made for him since 1773 in BC on the head of Sinking Creek adj the land of Jas Harbison & OC

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William Thompson is intd 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 also the premption of 200 acres adj the sd sett to include a survey made for sd Thompson & one made for David Frame since 1773 in BC on Sinking Creek adj the land of Saml Adams jr & OC

Sturdy Joans is intd to 112 acres of land by sett before 1778 a survey made for Jas McCown since 1773 in BC on Sinking Creek adj the lands of Saml Adams & OC

Joseph Hale is intd to 140 acres of land by right of sett before 1778 as asse of Jno Plumley being a survey made for sd Plumley since 1773 in BC on little River adj the land of Jno Hale & OC

John Plumbley is intd to the preemption of 100 acres of land in BC on Tenys Creek a branch of little River where he now lives & OC

Joshua Howell is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 including a survey made for him since 1773 in BC on the south fork of little River adj the land of George Hersling and Grif(?) Dickenson also the Preemption of 100 acres adj the said settlement & OC

Terman vs Mead, Claims a tract of land surveyd for Jno Rentfrow since 1773 on Mill Creek a branch of Little River  
This day came the parties in their proper person whereupon Witnesses being Examined & the parties heard its the Judgment of the Court that the sd Deft Abiel Mead is intd to the said 400 Land by right of sett before 1772 as asse of Jno Rentfrow part of a survey of 485 acres lying in BC also the preem. of 85 acres the remd of sd survey & OC

James Tearman is intd to 400 acres of land by right of sett before 1778 as asse of Joseph Rentfrow part of a survey made for sd Rentfrow since 1773 in BC on the West fork of little River adj the land of Abiel Mead also the Preemption of 265 acres the remr of sd survey & OC

Benjamin Tearman is intd to 400 acres of land by right of sett before 1778 as asse of Matthew Talbot including a survey made for James Tearman since 1773 in BC on the west fork of Little River where he now lives & OC

Samuel Adams is intd to 250 acres of land by sett before 1778 including a survey made for him since 1773 in Bot C on Sinking Creek adj the land of Walter Gray & OC

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Walter Gray is intd to 250 acres of land by right of sett before 1778 as asse of James Curry including a survey made for sd Curry since 1773 in BC on Sinking Creek adj the land of Saml Adams & OC

Geo Paterson is intd to 85 acres of land by sett before 1778 a survey made for Wm Carr since 1773 in BC Sinking Creek adj the land of John Weathers & OC

James Boyle is intd to 129 acres of land by sett before 1778 a survey made for him since 1773 in BC on Ogles Creek where he now lives & OC

Benjamin Howell is intd to 354 acres of land by sett before 1778 a survey made for him since 1773 in BC on Mill Creek a branch of little River where he now lives & OC

Benjamin Howell is intd to 121 acres of land by right of sett before 1778 as asse of Jno Spurlock a survey made for sd Spurlock since 1773 in BC on falling Branch below sd Howells sett & OC

Benjamin Howell is intd to 200 acres of land by right of sett before 1778 as asse of Jesse Elkins Including a survey made for sd Howell since 1773 in BC on the west fork of little River adj the lands of Benj. Ritcheson

Richard Reynolds is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 including a survey made for him since 1773 in BC on Pine Creek also the preemption of 400 acres adj sd sett including a survey made for Jno Hunget since 1773 on old field Creek & OC

William Dolton is intd to 150 acres of land by sett before 1778 in BC on Indian Ridge on the west fork of little River & OC

Charles Hunget is intd to 260 acres of land by sett before 1778 a survey made for him since 1773 in BC on the n. side of little River adj a survey made for Jno Plumbley & OC

Job Hale is intd to 187 acres of land by sett before 1778 a survey made for Richd Reynold since 1773 in BC on the N side of little river adj the land of Hercules Ogle & OC

Matthias Scott is intd to 200 acres of land by sett before 1778 in BC adj an old survey where he now lives & OC

Greenbury Keeth is intd to 200 acres of land by sett before 1778 as asse of Jno Evans in BC on the S side of Little River adj the land of James Boyle and OC

William Tarry is intd to 338 acres of land by sett before 1778 including two surveys made for sd Tarry & one made for Richd Brecky since 1773 in BC on both sides of little River adj the land of Jona Grahm & OC

(page 64)

James Hiddingson intd to 215 acres of land by sett before 1778 a survey made for him since 1773 in BC on a branch of little river adj the land of Joshua Martin & OC

Francis Eason is intd to 182 acres of land by sett before 1778 a survey made for him since 1773 in BC adj an old survey where he now lives & OC

John Hunget is intitld to 100 acres of land by Sett before 1778 in BC on little River adj the lands of Frs & Samuel Eason & OC

Hezekiah Sumner is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 including a survey made for him since 1773 in BC on the South fork of little River where he now lives & OC

Reuben Ratliff is intd to 236 acres of land by sett before 1778 a survey made for Seth Johnston since 1773 in Botetourt County on the South fork of Little River, adj an old survey where sd Ratliff now lives & OC

Charles Willson is intd to the Preemption of 100 acres of land in BC on Brush Creek below Jacob Helms & OC

Nicholas Alley is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 as asse of John Boling part of a survey made for sd Alley since 1773 in BC on Little river at the Beaver Dams also the Preemption of 400 acres the Remdr of sd survey & OC

William Holly is intd to 329 acres of land by sett before 1778 a survey made for him since 1773 in BC adj an old survey where he now lives & Oc

Joshua Martin is intd to 250 acres of land by sett before 1778 including a survey made for him since 1773 in BC on pine run a branch of little river adj the land of Jas Heddin & OC

William Bell is intd to 90 acres of land by right of sett before 1778 as asse of John Reburn a survey made for sd Bell since 1773 in BC on both sides of little River at the Mouth of Laurel Creek & OC

Thomas Goodson is intd to 281 acres of land by sett before 1778. Part of an inclusive survey of 481 acres made for him since 1773 in BC on little river adj the land of Jasper Tarry & OC

(page 65)

Joshua Tarry is intd to 250 acres of land by sett before 1778 part of an Inclusive survey of 300 acres made for him since 1773 in BC on little River adj the land of Thomas Goodson & OC

Jonathan Graham is intd to 390 acres of land by sett before 1778 a survey made for him since 1773 in BC on little River adj the land of Jasper Tarry & OC

Thomas Ashley is intitlled to the Preemption of 200 acres of land in BC on the meadow Branch near Jonathan Graham & OC

Jacob Graham is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 including a survey made for him since 1773 in BC on pine Creek a branch of little river where he now lives & OC

John Henry is intitlled to the Preemption of 200 acres of land in BC on the head of Brush Creek & OC

Ordered that Court be adjourned till Tomorrow 9 oClock  
Saml McDowell

At a Court of Commissioners Continued and held for the District of Augusta Botetourt and Greenbrier, at the house of Capt James Barnet on Wednesday the 16th Day of February Anno Dom 1780  
Present

Saml McDowell  
James McCorkle & Wm McKee Gent

Joseph Titus is intitlled to 300 acres of land in Right of Sett before 1778 as asse of Christr Cooper who is asse of Jonathan Harrison in BC on Brush Creek adj the land of Ro McElheny & OC

Robert McElheny is intd to 200 acres of land by right of sett before 1778 as asse of Robert Smith Lying in Botetourt County on Brush Creek adj the land of Joseph Titus & OC

Robert McElhenny is intd to 300 acres of land by sett before 1778 as asse of John Martin in BC on Brush Creek adj the land of Jacob Helm & OC

Jacob Helm is intd to the Preemption of 250 acres of land as asse of Ebenezer Titus in BC on Brush Creek adj the land of Ro. McElheny & OC

William Tarry minor is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 in BC on Brush Creek adj the land of Wm McElheny & OC

(page 66)

Jacob Helm is intd to 400 acres of land by right of sett before 1778 as asse of Evan Harry incl. a survey made for said Harry since 1773 in BC on little river adj the land of Marquis Likens & OC

Marquis Likings is intd to 100 acres of land by sett before 1778 in BC on a head branch of little River adj the land of Jacob Helm & OC

John LIkings son & heir at law of Andw Likings decd is intd to 181 acres of land by sett before 1778 a survey made for sd Andrw Likins Senr 1773 in BC on meadow Run & OC

Joshua Morris is intd to 200 acres of land by sett before 1778 incl a survey made for him since 1773 in BC on the N side of Little River adj the land of Saml Easton & OC

Peter Storm is intd to the preemption of 200 acres of land as asse of John Gee in BC on the south fork of little river above the land of Griffith Dickenson & OC

Hercules Ogle is intd to 200 acres of land by right of sett before 1778 as asse of Geo Banet lying in B. C on little river adj the red bank survey & OC

James Ritcheson is intd to 220 acres of land by sett before 1778 a survey made for him since 1773 in BC on a branch of little river adj the land of James Heddons & OC

Cooper vs Conner This day came the parties in their proper persons having no attornies, whereupon witnesses being Exam & the parties heard its the Judgment of the Court that the said Plaintiff James Cooper as asse of Joshua Howell has the Prior claim to the land in Dispute

Reynolds vs Huff Dismd P O Pltf

Conner vs Cooper This day came the parties in their proper persons having no attornies whereupon witnesses being examined & the parties heard its the Judgment of the Court that the sd Pltf Daniel Conner is intd to the land in dispute as asse of Jno Griffiths VIZ 300 acres by right of set before 1778 Including part of a survey made for Geo Griffiths since 1773 & Griffiths Impt & so much of James Coopers Improvements which lies on the North side of a branch where sd Cooper now lives & bounded on the East by a branch near the old muster ground to both branches & the Meadow ground on the sd branches to their confluence lying in BC & OC

Jonathan Harrison is intd to 100 acres of land by sett before 1778 as asse of William Bell lying in Botetourt County on the Swamp branch where he now lives & OC

(page 67)

James McCutchen is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 in BC on the head of the South fork of little river land where he now lives & OC

Willson vs Cooper This day came the parties in their Proper persons having no attornies whereupon Wits being Examd and the parties heard its the Judgement of the Court that the Pltf Joshua Willson is intd to the land in dispute 150 acres by right of sett before 1778 as asse of Richd McAlary lying in Bot Cy adj a survey made for Geo Griffiths & the land on which sd Willson now lives on & OC

James Cooper is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 to include part of a survey made for Geo Griffiths & his own Impts on the South side of a branch oppt where he now lives adj the land of Danl Conner & Joshua Willson & OC

Ordered that Court be adjourned till Tomorrow 9 oClock  
Saml McDowell

Attest

James Lyle Jr Clk

At a Court of Comm contd & held for the District of Augusta etc at the house of Capt James Barnet Thursday the 17th day of February 1780  
Present

Samuel McDowell  
James McCorkle & Wm McKee Gent

Christopher Cooper is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 lying in Botetourt County on brush Creek adj the land of Wm Cooper & OC

John Skaggs is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 in GB County on Wolf Creek adj the land of Michael Swope & OC

Christy Richards is intitled to 100 acres of land by sett before 1778 that part of an Inclusive survey of 146 acres which is in the plat Exclusive of an old survey included lying in BC on little river adj the land of Saml Eason & OC

Griffith Dickinson Snr is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 part of an Inclusive survey of 710 acres exclusvie of an old survey of 140 acres included in sd surveys lying in BC on the west fork of little River & where he now lives & OC

Ogle vs Willson Dismd & O Pltff

(page 68)

Griffith Dickinson Jr is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 part of a survey of 700 acres made for him since 1773 in BC on the South Branch of little river adj the land of Peter Storm, also the Preemption of 400 acres to include the remdr of sd survey & OC

Moses Dickinson is intd to 200 acres of land by sett before 1778 lying in BC on the west fork of little River adj the land of Griffith Dickinson Senr & OC

Daniel Conner is intd to 400 acres of land by right of sett before the first Jany 1778 as asse of Henry Dowease including a survey made for sd Dowease since 1773 in BC on Meadow run where he now lives & OC

Joshua Willson is intd to 295 acres of land by sett before 1778 as asse of Thomas Scott a survey made for sd Scott since 1773 in BC on a branch of little River where he now lives & OC

Joshua Willson is intd to 334 acres of land by sett before 1778 as asse of Isaiah Willis a survey made for sd Willis since 1773 in BC on a branch of little river called Leonards Run, adj a survey made for Thos Scott & OC

Cornelius Reid is intd to 150 acres of land by sett before 1778 in BC on little river adj the land of Nicolas Alley & OC

John Osburn is intd to 150 acres of land by sett before 1778 as asse of Joseph McClure(?) in BC a head branch of little River adj the land of Leonard Hoff & OC

John Hays is intd to 150 acres of land by sett before 1778 in BC on a head branch of little River adj the land of Leo. Huff & OC

Peter Gerhart is intd to 118 acres of land by sett before 1778 as asse of Michael Bacon a survey made for Cornl Dowease in BC on Little River & OC

Joseph Hoff is intd to 333 acres of land by sett before 1778 as asse of Uriah Aires a survey made for said Aires since 1773 in BC on a head branch of little river adj the land of Leon. Hoff & OC



Thomas Hart is intd to the Preemption of 300 acres of land in BC on pine branch adj the land of Herl Ogle & OC

Ollive Clear & Eliza. Clear are intd to 300 acres of land by sett before 1778 as Heirs at law to their Father Frans. Clear decd including a survey made for them since 1773 in Ogles Creek adj the land of Jas Boyle & OC

(page 69)

George Ingle is intd to 400 acres of land by right of sett before 1778 as asse of Andw Bradley lying in BC on a branch of little River where Ingles now lives & OC

Jonathan Tullis is intd to the preemption of 200 acres of land in BC on a branch of little river & OC

James Loyd is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 incd the remr of a survey made for him since 1773 which incd 67 acres of patented land in BC on both sides of the little river adj the land of James Boyles also the preemption of 100 acres adj the sd sett & OC

Thomas Madison, admr of Dennis Gatly decd is intd to 314 acres of land by sett before 1778 a survey made for him since 1773 lying in BC on Sinking Creek a branch of New River & OC

Daniel Conner is intd to the Preemption of 100 acres of land lying in Botetourt County on Meadow run below John Likings settlement & OC

Ordered that Court be adjourned till tomorrow 9 oClock

Saml McDowell

Teste  
James Lyle jr Clk

At a court of Commissioners contd & held for the District of Augusta & Friday 18th February 1780  
Present

Saml McDowell  
James McCorkle & Wm McKee Gent

William Neeley is intd to 335 acres of land by Right of Sett before the first of Jany 1778 as asse of Chas English including 3 surveys made since 1773 VIZ 2 made for sd English & one made for James Smith lying in BC on both sides of little River below the land of Reuben Ratliff & OC

William Neeley is intd to the Preemption of 200 acres of land lying in BC on Beaver Dam Creek a branch of little River & OC

Ordered that Court be adjourned till tomorrow 9 oClock

Saml McDowell

Attest  
James Lyle, Jr Clk

(page 70)

At a court of Comms contd and held for the District of Augusta & at the House of Capt James Barnet Saturday the 19th Day of February 1780

Present

Saml McDowell  
James McCorkle & Will McKee Gent

Ordered that David May Esq. Survey(or) of the County of Botetourt be allowed pay for 20 days attendance on this Court according to law

Ordered that it is the oppinion of this Court that David May Esq. Surveyor of the County of Botetourt ought to be allowed the sum of Fifty Pounds by the publick over & above the pay allowed him by Law for Transporting the Surveyors Books to the County of Greenbrier

Ordered that Court be adjourned till Monday 9 oClock

Saml McDowell

Attest  
James Lyle jr Clk

At a Court of Commrs Contd & held for the District of Augusta Bote-tourt & Greenbrier at the House of Capt James Barnet on Monday the 21st Day of February 1780

Present

Saml McDowell  
James McCorkle & William McKee Gent

Ordered that James Barnet Esqr Deputy Sheriff of the County of Bote-tourt be allowed pay for 7 days attendance on this Court according to law — 7 Days at 40/is £ 14—

John McClelan is intd to 210 acres of land by sett before 1778 a survey made for him since 1773 in BC on the Puncheon Camp Branch where he now lives & OC

Benj. Richardson is intd to 183 acres of land by right of sett before 1778 as asse of Saml Underwood a survey made for sd Richardson since 1773 in BC on the west fork of little River below Benj Howells survey & OC

Benj. Richardson is intd to 147 acres of land by sett before 1778 a survey made for him since 1773 in BC on a branch of West fork of little river & OC

(page 71)

George Herslin is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 including a survey of 200 acres made for him since 1773 in BC on the S. fork of Little river & OC

George Hersling is intd to 400 acres of land by right of sett before 1778 as assignee of Joseph Davis lying in BC adj sd Herslings survey & including a small improvement & OC



Joseph McMurtry Jr is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 including a survey made for Geo Paterson since 1773 lying in BC on Sinking Creek where sd McMurtry now lives & OC

John Middleton is intd to 400 acres of land by right of sett before 1778 as asse of Robert McAfee including a survey made for sd McAfee since 1773 lying in BC on a branch of Sinking Creek where sd Middleton now lives

Alexander Greenlee is intd to 200 acres of land by right of sett before 1778 as assee of Nathan Sellars lying in BC on pine run adj the land of Joshua Martin & OC

Thomas Middleton is intd to 400 acres of land by right of sett before 1778 as asse of Saml Adams Jr including a survey made for sd Adams Jr since 1773 in BC on Sinking Creek adj the land of Jno Weathers

William Likings is intd to 100 acres of land by sett before 1778 lying in Bot County on the Mine Creek a branch of little River, to include his improvements & OC

Paul Dowease is intd to the Preemption of 114 acres of land lying in Botetourt County a survey made for Benjamin Light since 1773 on the head of Pine branch where sd Dowease now lives & OC

Henry Dowease is intd to 238 acres of land by right of sett before 1778 as asse of Cornelius Dowease a survey made for sd Cornelius since 1773 in BC on little River where sd Henry now lives & OC

Dowease vs Hoff Disd & Order of Pltf

Paris vs Miller Disd & O. Pltf agreed

Jacob Miller is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 as asse of George Paris Jr who is asse of George Paris, Sr lying in GB Co on the head of Rich Creek where sd Miller now lives & OC

Gatliff vs Woods, Contd to the 10th April at the Great Savanna in Greenbrier

Jacob Miller is intd to 300 acres of land by right of sett before 1778 as asse of David Frazer a survey made for sd Frazer since 73 lying in GB County on the Dry fork of Rich Creek adjoining the land of John Caperton & OC

(page 72)

Jacob Miller is intd to 300 acres of land by sett before 1778 lying in GB County on the head of Traping lick to include a place called Boughmans Camp & OC

David Price is intd to 200 acres of land by sett before 1778 lying in BC near the head of Thomas Creek, adj the East end of an old survey of Pattented land whereon Wm Handley formerly lived & OC

Ordered that Court be adjourned till Wednesday the 22nd March then to meet at the House of John Warrick on Tygers Valley in Augusta County

Saml McDowell

Test

James Lyle Jr Clk C.C. D. A. B. & Gb

Mems: March 14 1780 this day the schedules for all certifications granted before this date being prepared were signed, attested & lie in order to be sent to the Register of the Land office & surveyors of the Several Counties

Test: James Lyle Jr. Clk

Eighteenth of a Series  
of  
**OLD HOMES OF AUGUSTA COUNTY**

"WILLOW GROVE FARM"

The Home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Patterson, Sr.  
Harrison, Virginia

By Gladys B. Clem

Indians were still roaming through the Shenandoah Valley in 1745, but that did not deter James Craig from staking out a tract of land and clearing it along South River. If the ring of his ax attracted any wandering braves they either kept out of sight or Craig was too busy to record it.

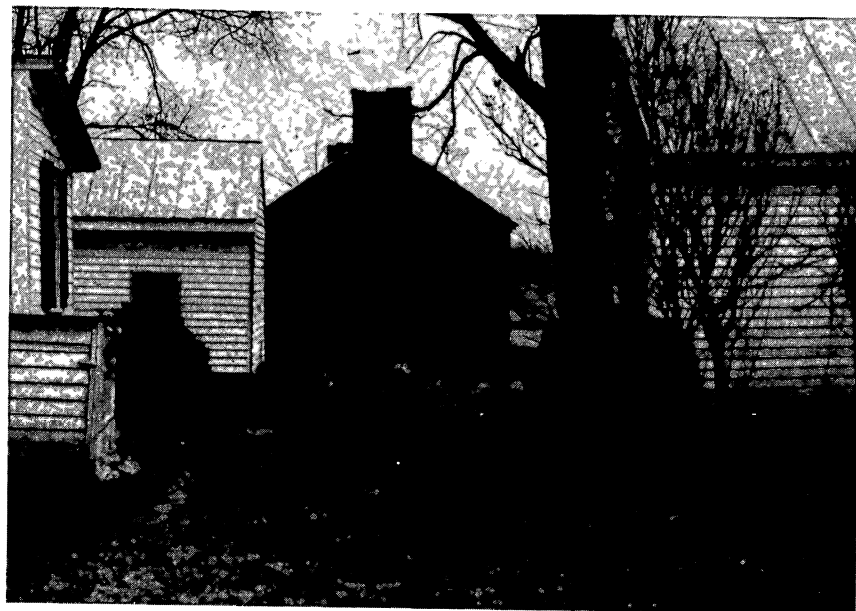
The land was given the name, "Willow Grove Farm" from the numerous willow trees that grew along the river bank. It presently consists of 214 acres — considerable less acreage, no doubt, than it was originally — and is located on Va. 778, 12 miles north of Waynesboro on the west side of South River.

Craig built his brick dwelling almost within touching distance of the river. In fact it has come too close for comfort on numerous occasions. The eroded banks of an old millrace that once provided power for a nearby mill are quite discernible. The mill burned some fifteen years ago.

In over the two centuries the farm has been in operation, farming techniques have radically changed. The rich bottom land still produces the abundant crops of grain for the cattle and hogs with which the farm is stocked.



Old part of dwelling on left side of "Willow Grove Farm."  
(Photographer William H. Bushman)



Servants' quarters.

The primogeniture of the family from James Craig shows the land passed to his son William and then to George Craig. George's daughter, Mary Craig, next in inheritance, married John Allen Patterson, who took over the property. David Patterson was the succeeding owner and father of the present resident.

Three generations presently call "Willow Grove Farm" home. Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Patterson, Sr. (Mrs. Patterson was formerly Trixie Mohler of Grottoes) who occupy the farm home, their son Charles H. Patterson, Jr. the present owner is assisted in its management by his two sons, Charles Patterson III and his younger brother, Thomas.

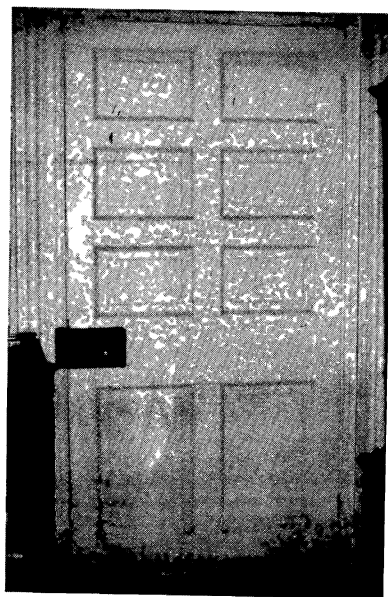
Various architectural features indicate that the home was built about the time the land was cleared. The entrance faced the river and what was once the "front room" is now the dining room. Beautifully proportioned, it measures 20 by 18 feet, (the bedroom above is of the same dimension.) The 14-inch thick walls and the deeply recessed windows, with their panelled frames are characteristics of construction of that day. The hand carved mantel is the product of a master craftsman, both in workmanship and in its design of double pilasters surmounted by a double vase effect.

The focal point of the room is the handsome Sheraton mahogany sideboard. Its satin-like patina comes only from age and excellent restoration. Its story is unique. Originally it was owned by the Mohler family of Grottoes, the parents of Mrs. Charles Patterson, Sr. When the home was broken up many years ago, there was the inevitable "family sale." None in the family wanted the massive old sideboard, (at that time!)—it was too out-sized for the modern home. Consequently it was put up for sale. For years it was lost sight of.

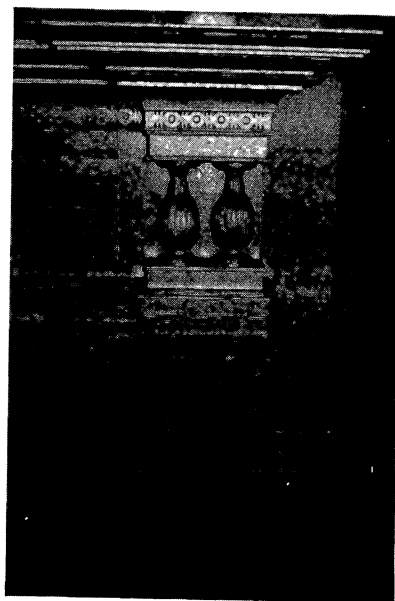
Eventually a relative recognized it in an old farm house in a distant part of the county. Its brass fastenings were gone and it was being used as a receptacle in which to store meat. Possibly the grease absorbed through this period of its history acted as a wood preservative that resulted in its excellent condition today.

The door, originally the front entrance, now opens on a side porch, and is of triple cross design. Its broad English lock and outsized door key have been the means of admitting both friend and stranger for over two centuries.

The east door, opening into the family breakfast room, is of the same triple cross design as is the one leading into the kitchen, the latter has a hinged opening in the center panel for servants to



Triple cross door originally front door.



Mantel detail in dining room.

pass the food warm from the kitchen. A handsome, but less ornate, mantel tops the fireplace in this comfortable and homey room.

In 1869 architectural changes were made in the old dwelling when a frame portion was added to the original brick structure. A wide hallway, with a long and graceful stairway joins the two portions. At the foot of the stair there is a handsome old grandfather's clock that is thought to have been in use since the house was first built, a witness, as it were of the coming and going of seven generations.

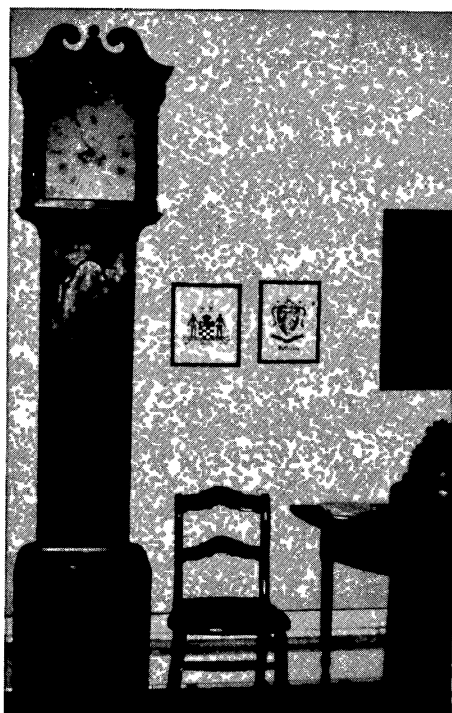
The latter addition brought the number of rooms to ten, five of them bedrooms. The capacious attic is vented by two port-holes on either side of the tall chimneys. Three large porches have been added, one across the front, one facing the river, where summer breezes are enjoyed on a hot day, and one in the rear.

In the rear are two old buildings in good condition in spite of their age. One is of log, the other brick. Once they were servant quarters of another and bygone day. Their broad chimneys, where food was prepared in iron pots hung from a crane or a Dutch oven in the ashes, almost dwarf the buildings themselves.

Boxwoods, thick and round and velvety green, grow around the front porch and on either side of the walkway. Large trees make the lawn a cool and shady place in summer.

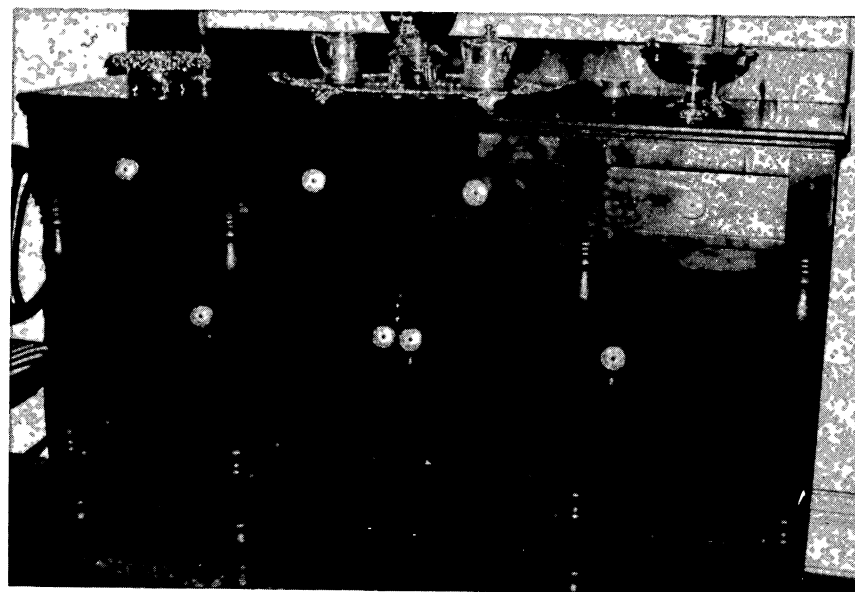
The distinction of the same family occupying the same property for over two centuries is pinpointed by a bronze marker in the hall of "Willow Grove Farm." This achievement recognized the South River property as being one of the very few in the state to be designated by the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation as a Bicentennial Farm in 1976. This honor also qualifies for a special marker to be placed on the property.

The research necessary to qualify for this signal honor was accomplished by Miss Helena Koiner, of Waynesboro, a cousin of Mr. Patterson, Sr., who spent long and tedious hours searching the records that paid off so with such success.



Old clock thought to have  
been made when house  
was built.

Old sideboard in dining  
room.



## Revised Inventory of Augusta Historical Bulletins on hand, April, 1977

(A check of the vault shows the inventory should read as follows:)

Volume 1:	No. 1, 60
1965	No. 2, 25
Volume 2:	No. 1, 51
1966	No. 2, 100
Volume 3:	No. 1, 75
1967	No. 2, 50
Volume 4:	No. 1, 27
1968	No. 2, 30
Volume 5:	No. 1, 40
1969	No. 2, sold out
Volume 6:	No. 1, 12
1970	No. 2, sold out, Reprint of Loyal Company list available only
Volume 7:	No. 1, sold out
1971	No. 2, 61 (This has Series 2 of the Old Homes of Augusta County)
Volume 8:	No. 1, 10
1972	No. 2, 41
Volume 9:	No. 1, sold out
1973	No. 2, 46 (This has Series 3 of the Old Homes of Augusta County)
Volume 10:	No. 1, 1
1974	No. 2, 22
Volume 11:	No. 1, sold out
1975	No. 2, 22
Volume 12:	No. 1, 21
1976	No. 2, 12
Price:	\$3.00 each

## IN MEMORIAM

Mr. John M. Flintom  
Mrs. Frederick C. Hamer  
Mr. A. Thomas Loving  
Mrs. John S. Loving  
Mrs. Carol K. Morrison  
Dr. and Mrs. Herbert S. Turner